BIRD NOTES

VOL. I.

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BIRD NOTES.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS.
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY.

VOLUME I.—NEW SERIES.

"*By mutual confidence and mutual aid*
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

ASHBOURNE:
J. H. HENSTOCK, MARKET PLACE.
1910.

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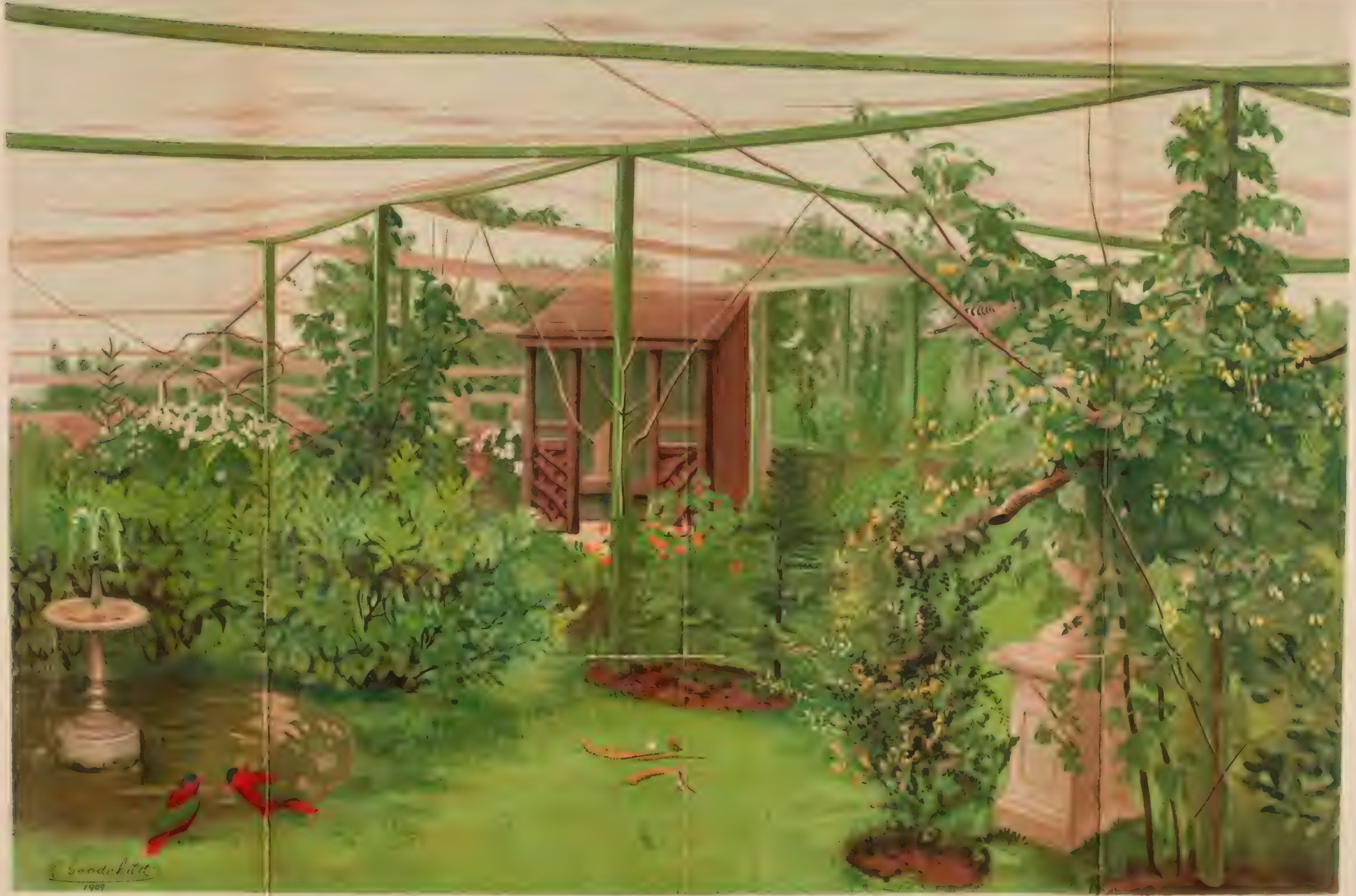
Errata.

On page 151, line 3 from bottom, *Scops leucotis* should read *Scops elangeri.*

On page 151, line 4 from bottom, *White-eared Scops Owl* should read *Elanger's Scops Owl.*

On page 174, line 5 from bottom, *palvatris* should read *palustris.*

Opposite page 176—title of bottom figure on plate should read *Elanger's Scops Owl.*


Goodchild
1909

INTERIOR OF A BEAUTIFUL OUT-DOOR AVIARY

[illegible] largest Flight 50 [illegible]

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Wilderness Aviary.

By H. WILLFORD.

To accompany Mr. Goodchild's excellent plate of my largest out-door aviary, our Editor has asked me to write a few lines, and although my aviaries have already been rather fully described (chiefly their constructional details), perhaps a few words further will not be out of place.

Firstly, then as regards the planting out, which, next to stocking it with suitable inmates, is, I should say the most important thing to be considered from a breeder's point of view, as well as from artistic or spectacular one. I have found the common laurel to be by far the hardiest and most suitable shrub to plant for this locality, and in an aviary like this (the "wilderness") where all sides are exposed to the elements, a good laurel hedge, consisting of shrubs, so planted that their sides just touch, form a capital break to the bitterest winds. It is fairly quick growing and inexpensive, good Laurels, four to five feet high and a yard across, cost in this part of the country, about half-a-crown each. Besides these any kind of Fir, Larch or Conifer are useful, chiefly as feeding grounds for the smaller insectivorous birds such as Wrens, &c., as are also many kinds of creepers ; the common Nasturtium being a very rapid grower, can be used to such good purpose that even the most unsightly structure can be made to look quite picturesque.

I have this year introduced several kinds of Michælmas Daisies and other flowering plants, many of which grow to a height of seven feet or more, and, although of little use for nesting, with Nasturtiums, Marigolds, &c., form an excellent and natural colour food for most species of birds ; I have often sat and watched many of the brightest coloured species searching, presumably, for minute insects, perched sometimes on a Marigold head, and at others among the Nasturtiums, their little beaks covered with the highly coloured pollen. The Melba and Lavender Finches I remember were particularly fond of overhauling any kind of flower heads.

Amongst other growing plants I must not omit to mention Hops. These, when in flower, and well-grown, are very ornamental, for every year they throw out their tendrils stronger and stronger, forming beautiful festoons in varied shades of green. It is among these that the Lesser Whitethroats, Willow Wrens, Blackcaps, Mesias, and many others, earn a goodly share of their daily bread. The two former are never still by daylight, but are ever on the move flitting to and fro amongst the leaves, darting first in the shade then out into the sunshine, attracted thither perchance by some luckless insect, which soon falls a victim to their agility ; back they go again to search the under side of the hop leaves for the tiny flies that dwell there, forming truly a kaleidescope of ever-moving colour.

Bamboos are ornamental and their long leaves serve as an excellent nesting material, in particular for various kinds of Weavers.

Most of the Australian Grass-finches prefer to nest in long grass, as their name would naturally lead one to suppose, so to make the surroundings as natural as possible, I have made a rather steep bank, running the whole length of my aviaries, this bank faces due south and is turfed, and sown with various wild seeds, such as Plantain, Chickweed, Teazel, and many varieties of grass ; these are allowed to grow up and run to seed each year, and after the seed has fallen are cut close for the winter.

The ground on which my aviaries are built was originally a sloping meadow at the back of the house ; enough ground was levelled at one end for a series of tennis courts, at the bottom of which runs a carriage drive, lying about four feet below these courts, and, below this road are the long series of aviaries. Now the water-draining from the land above tends to make the bank side of the "wilderness" very wet in winter, so I am having a stream constructed to run at the foot of the bank, the full length of the aviaries, to conduct all the surface water by way of a waterfall into a pond about twelve feet square, prepared for its reception in aviary number four. This pond is to be fitted with an overflow pipe to empty into a ditch at the back of the aviaries.

At most times there will be a trickle of water coursing down this stream as the overflow of the fountain will also find its way there. The fountain and pool are half surrounded by shrubs, rock-work, &c., which tend to keep the drinking water cool in the summer months.

The rustic summer-house shown in the plate is used chiefly as a feeding-house and shelter.

I think these few notes, in conjunction with what I have written in previous issues of *Bird Notes*, will give anyone at least a rough idea of my aviaries. Many improvements no doubt could be made, but, as the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and results in breeding having been highly satisfactory with the birds so far kept, I can only assume that this type of aviary is not far from the ideal.

For the benefit of new members perhaps I had better add that the aviaries simply consist of an area of ground covered in by half-inch mesh wire-netting on wood framing, with a wooden shelter shed in each, and planted as described herein. They have been erected as summer or breeding quarters for the birds, most of which are taken into the birdroom for the winter months and put out again in the spring. For full details, photos, plans, &c., see *Bird Notes*, vols. vii. and viii.

An Interesting Collection of Rare Birds.

By W. T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

About mid-November I was privileged to pay a much anticipated visit to our esteemed member Mr. O. Millsum, and to spend a pleasant and interesting week-end with him and his birds.

He has a fine and rare series of many beautiful species, the bulk of which were in winter quarters in the bird room, though some few still enjoyed comparative liberty in the out-door aviary.

MAROON ORIOLE *(Oriolus traillii)*: Three specimens (1 adult ♂, 1 adult ♀, and 1 immature ♂) have recently (about September last) come into Mr. Millsum's possession. They are most interesting and handsome birds, the upper surface of the male is maroon-brown with under surface mostly pale buff. The female is brown above with a whitish and sharply striated under surface. It was specially interesting to observe this group, owing to the young male being in parti-adult plumage, yet with sufficient of the nestling plumage remaining to indicate clearly that in that stage it resembles the adult female. True they had a large cage, and needed it too, but they were very steady for Orioles, much steadier than the tamest Golden Oriole I ever saw. If Mr. Millsum should part with this pair, I trust they will pass into the possession of one of our members with large natural aviaries, so that they may have an opportunity of at any rate, attempting to breed.

These were fed upon soft food (Mr. Millsum's own mixture), "B.C." Crystals, milk sop, unlimited ripe fruit and live insects.

GREEN BULBULS OR FRUITSUCKERS: Of all the many gorgeous birds that reach us from foreign climes, the genus *Chloropsis* stand without rivals as cage or aviary birds. Their fearless and confiding demeanour—much more striking in a roomy aviary than in a cage—inquisitiveness, powers of mimicry, and quaint characteristics, soon endear them to their owner, whose affection and care they soon reciprocate. At the same time being bold, fearless, and inquisitive, they must not be associated with birds smaller than themselves.

Of this genus, Mr. Millsum possesses three species, viz.: *C. aurifrons*, *hardwickii*, and *jerdonii*. It is of the two latter that I purpose making a few remarks, as *aurifrons* (Gold-fronted) is so well known, that it is needless to say more than that the specimen was very fit, but not in full mature plumage. The Blue-winged Green Bulbul *(C. hardwickii)* I was particularly pleased to see, it is quite a few years since they have been on the market, and I much fear envy was mingled with my admiration and congratulations. The total length of this lovely species is about 7 ins. The upper surface is bright metallic green; forehead and upper eye region, yellowish-green; tail and wing flights, deep blue; throat, deep purple; moustachial streaks, rich smalt blue; breast and abdomen, rich orange yellow; ventral region, greenish; under tail coverts, dusky orange yellow; legs and feet, slaty-blue; beak (stout and curved), blackish. The female is very dissimilar to the male, lacking all the rich blue areas which adorn his plumage. The specimen here described, arrived in immature plumage, and has been successfully moulted, but the hues of its plumage will be much richer and deeper after another moult. Its range is the S.E. Himalayas, from Nepal to Bootan, spreading south to the hill ranges of Assam, Sylhetand Crekan.

JERDON'S BULBUL (*C. jerdonii*) *:* This species interested me much, and though only a female, was indeed a beautiful bird ; it was the first specimen I had seen in the flesh, and I believe the first specimen to arrive alive in this country. It is smaller and slighter than the well known *aurifrons*, and may be briefly described as follows :—Contour, typical ; the prevailing colour is bright grass-green, lighter on the forehead, upper eye region and under surface : a bib or crescentic patch of light blue on the throat, extending upwards to the base of the under mandible. It is difficult to compare one species with the other of this exquisite genus, it must suffice to say that it was exquisitely beautiful, yet of a softer tone of beauty to either *aurifrons* or *hardwickii.*

In addition to gorgeous plumage, all the above species are good songsters, somewhat disjointed their lay may be, but most of the notes are of good power and flute-like, while their powers of mimicry are great, they will mimic any bird from a Blackbird to a Canary and come very near to the harsh scream of a Parrot.

Unless in a good sized aviary with birds of their own size and power, they should be kept separately, being of a bellicose disposition, and, I cannot advise them being kept with other species in a cage, though Mr. Millsum had a Jamaican Hangnest in the same cage as his *aurifrons*, but I much fear ultimate disaster will be the outcome of such procedure. Diet : Same as Maroon Orioles.

TANAGERS : These were not so numerous as usual, very many of the unique species having passed into another member's hands during the year. However these only require naming, being all comparatively well known, if uncommon species : All Green (Necklace), Festive, Palm, and Blue ; all being very fit and brilliant.

SUGAR BIRDS : These were represented by three species, all gorgeous and very fit, consisting of the Yellow-winged, Black-headed and Blue. I am of the opinion that if, say a greenhouse (from which damp was excluded and kept temperate) planted with sub-tropical flowering climbers and shrubs and an outdoor flight to which they could have access during the summer months, could be given up to their exclusive use, it would not be difficult to induce the above species to reproduce their kind. The Black-headed have nested and laid eggs in a cage in Mr. Townsend's birdroom. Diet: Sugar Birds and Tanagers—Soft food, milk sop, unlimited ripe fruit and live insects are supplied, leaving individual birds to show their preference for one or the other.

The LORIIDÆ were represented by the Violet-necked *Eos riciniata*, Purple-capped *Lorius domicella*, and Ceram *L. garrulus*, all in the very finest condition. Diet: Staple, mild sop, prepared with boiling milk and "B.C." Crystals, and such ripe fruit as they fancy.

The CONURINÆ was represented by a very fine specimen of the Patagonian Conure *Cyanolyseus patagonus*, not gorgeous, but very beautiful, was very tame and steady and permitted me (on a first acquaintance) to fondle and pet it and handle it as I pleased through the wires of its cage. This species, once frequently imported, is now seldom seen, in fact quite uncommon.

The PLATYCERCINÆ were well represented by six species, viz.: Brown's (*Platycercus brownii*), Adeliade (*P. adelaidœ*), Mealy (*P. pallidiceps*), Barnard's (*Barnardius barnardii*), Twenty-eight (*B. semitorquatus*), and Golden-shouldered (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*); the latter are very rare and a grand acquisition (vide Vol. VIII., Series I., p.p. 272), but did not impress me as being very robust. All were very fit and in tight, and silken plumage.

There are many other species that call for more than passing notice, but I must reserve these for next issue, the space at my disposal being fully occupied.

(*To be continued*).

The Grey Parrot.

(Psittacus erithacus).

By W. BAMFORD.

My Grey Parrot, which I have now had for the last seven years, was given me by my brother, who bought it at Las Palmas on his way back from South Africa. On arrival he was very wild and nervous, the least unexpected noise or strange object sending him flying round his cage, screeching wildly. Though much better now, he is still timid, and a strange object put in his seed tin will keep him for hours clinging to the wires of his cage on the side farthest away from it. If suddenly frightened he always dives head first out of his ring or off his perch to the bottom of his cage. This habit, though no doubt an excellent instinct in his native African forests, if attacked by a hawk whilst feeding on the tops of the trees, is likely in captivity to lead to sudden death through a dislocated neck. He is an excellent linguist, though when we first got him he would not say a word, and though but little time has been spent on his education, he can repeat quite a number of long sentences. Africa was a word we could never teach him to repeat, though we tried hard, whilst many sentences he says he could only have heard said once. Unfortunatly the last eighteen months he has taken to feather plucking, his breast and the shoulders of his wings being the places selected for his self mutilation. This is not due to improper food, as his staple diet is canary seed, with eight or nine sunflower seeds daily, this seed being his favourite *tit-bit.* Cherries are his favourite fruit, followed in order by grapes and red-currants. Apple he eats occasionally, but is not fond of it, whilst bananas, strawberries, and other fruits he will not touch. Green stuff he simply pulls to bits but does not eat ; he is, however, very fond of a walnut. He regularly takes a bath, which is hung on to the door of his cage and this he enjoys immensely. He first of all sits down in it and gets thoroughly soaked, then he scratches like a hen with his feet, throwing the water out behind in torrents. He was very frightened of his bath at first, but by placing it on his cage empty for several days and putting his daily allowance of sunflower seeds in it I got him used to it. His plumage is a light bright grey all over, not the dull smoky grey of many grey parrots, whilst his tail is a very bright but paleish red. When I first got him his iris was a very pale yellow. His tail also contained two dark muddy red feathers, which were very conspicuous amongst his tail feathers. They were the second from each side and were moulted out the first moult, being replaced by feathers similar to the rest. A number of his secondaries were splashed with red, but how many I cannot say, as he objects to being handled, though he likes his poll scratched. Within the last eighteen months he has suddenly developed a number of red and

and partially red feathers on his shoulders and a solitary red feather on his left thigh. Two or three are all red, one red with a white, and the others red with grey tips. His left wing was evidently damaged when captured; he has always been minus two or three of the primaries in this wing, which renders him unable to fly.

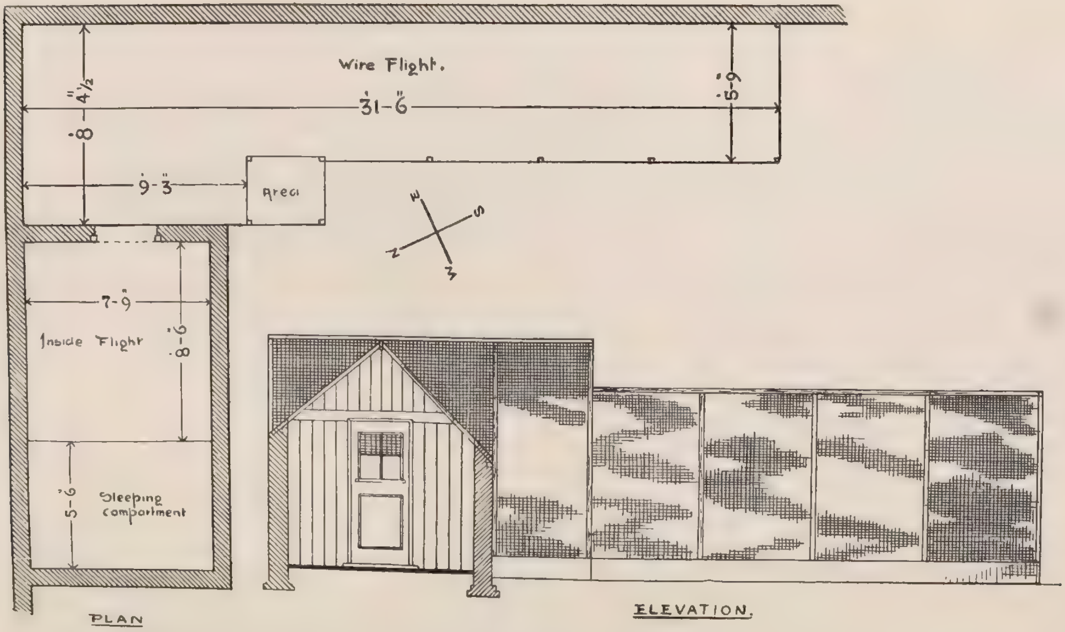
Since writing the above some eighteen months ago, I have cured him of his plucking habits. Evidently his food was too heating, as since I got him to eat white millet he has ceased this bad habit altogether. I never thought before that canary seed could be heating. His food now consists of equal parts canary and white millet, with about eight sunflower seeds daily; fruit and nuts occasionally. His plumage now being practically perfect. I can now see the number of light feathers he possesses. He has about a dozen very pale pink, nearly white ones on each shoulder, three on his breast, two or three on his abdomen, and two on the right thigh.

A Northern Aviary.

By H. V. JOHNSON.

This aviary was erected in my spare time and completed in May, 1908. So you will see I am only a novice, and the following description of my aviary and birds is intended chiefly for beginners.

SLEEPING COMPARTMENT, FITTINGS AND FOODS.—Built on a brick base, walls and gable ends lined with boarding and distempered white, floor tiled; there are hot water pipes in same, which up to the present have not been used. Roof boarded and covered with felt. Height to ridge 9ft. 6in., height to eaves 5ft., 3in., 6ft. 0in. Nesting receptacles comprise straw hats, travelling cages, Hartz canary cages and various types of wood boxes. Seed is kept in separate boxes and comprise the following kinds, Indian and white millet, canary seed, mixed wild seed; sunflower, whole oats, and "Paddy" rice mixed together; grit, cuttle-fish bone, old mortar, rock salt, crushed oyster and egg shells being always about. For the soft-bills, &c., there is a pan of soft food, ripe fruit of various kinds is given daily; mealworms, spiders, &c., are given on alternate days. So to the best of my ability I give everything that is necessary.


Wire Flight.
4½"
8'
31'-6"
5'-9"
9'-3"
Area
W
S
N
E
7'-9"
Inside Flight
8'-6"
5'-6"
Sleeping compartment
PLAN
ELEVATION.

A NORTHERN AVIARY.

Ground Plan and Elevation of Mr. H. V. Johnson's Aviary.

Locality, Southport.

Drawn to a scale of 4 foot to 1 inch, but reduced one half in reproduction.

OUTSIDE FLIGHT.—Constructed with 2in. by 1½in. red deal framing, put together by brackets so that any alterations or additions are easily made. This framing is amply sufficient, some aviaries I have seen are far too wooden.

All exterior woodwork painted with two coats of "Carbolinium Avenarious." The wire netting, which is of the best quality, and is of half-inch mesh, received one coat of Brunswick black. It is a mistake to use the cheapest quality of wire netting as it soon rusts away even if kept painted. The ground is sown with grass seed which has to be re-sown each spring on account of the birds pulling up the same, and the drip from the wire netting. One of the boundary walls is covered with ivy, there are also privet and laurel bushes. For perches I use natural twigs. There are two trees and part of a third, which, when in leaf, form a good shelter from the sun. I have omitted on the plan the bath which is 3ft. 0in. by 1ft 6in.

THE OCCUPANTS.—I have pairs of the following species: White Java Sparrows, Red-crested Cardinals, Skylarks, Indian Silverbills, Pekin Robins, Ruddy Buntings, Canaries and Red-eared Bulbuls, two cock Grey Javas (bought as a pair), two cock Madagascar Weavers, and the following odd birds, most of which have had mates: Grey Waxbill ♀, Green Singing Finch ♂, African Silverbill, Tricolour Nun, Zebra Finch ♂, African Silverbill, Tri-colour Nun, Zebra Finch ♂, Linnet ♂, Paradise Whydah ♀, Combassoo ♂, Saffron Finch ♂, Hedge Sparrow ♀, and four young Indian Silverbills.

NESTING NOTES. INDIAN SILVERBILLS *(Aidemosyne malabarica)*.—Breeding results have been practically nil, with the exception of the afore-mentioned young Silverbills which are coming on well. First nest produced only one young bird, which being very precocious left the nest too soon, and the result is it is bow-legged, otherwise it is all right. The other three youngsters are normal. Both the above nests were made in a wooden box.

WHITE JAVA SPARROWS (*Amadina oryzivora var alba*).—Have had nothing but bad luck with these, for out of about six nests of eggs none have hatched out, all proving unfertile. They are very nervous sitters compared with Silverbills, and leave the nest if I go anywhere near them. I am afraid I shall not have any luck until I get another hen, as she appears to be rather a weak bird.

Larks.—Paired but no result.

Pekin Robins (*Liothrix luteus*).—Started to build in one of the laurel bushes but never completed the nest.

Mixed Unions.—Cock Zebra Finch paired with a hen Grey Waxbill, several nests of eggs but no living result. Cock Zebra Finch paired with a hen White Java, but no result. The above cock Zebra has had three hens of his own species at different times, but all have died egg bound. African Silverbill paired to a Tricolour hen, but there has been no result, not even eggs ; possibly they are both of the same sex.

Ruddy Buntings.—Started to build in the ivy-covered wall, but nest was never completed.

Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*).—I have had several nests and eggs of the above. In the first nest two young were partially reared, but were eventually neglected and, of course, died. The above cock has had two mates both of which died egg-bound. Hen Canary and hen Hedge Sparrow have both built nests on their own account, but of course without result. The above Sparrow I picked up in the garden last year by hand, and it never attempted to fly away. Since it has been in the aviary it has been rather timid, not tame as I naturally expected. My birds have not yet had a proper chance as regards breeding ; last summer was a poor one, and this year it has been something shocking up here (Southport).

General Observations, Demeanour, &c. Cardinals.—I have kept two species of Cardinals, viz., Red Crested and Black-throated. The Red Crested I have found to be perfectly hardy and active birds, but they are rather quarrelsome. The Black-throated are very dull and sluggish birds compared with the above, and I have found them to be not nearly as hardy, as the cold and frosty weather soon ruffled them. Eventually both died of pneumonia. If I obtain any more of these birds I should bring them indoors about the end of September. They are not quarrelsome, the hen, if anything, being more so than the cock.

Slylarks.—Have been in aviary about 18 months. Hardy but still very timid.

Silverbills.—I have found the Indian to be quite hardy, more so than the African.

PEKIN ROBINS.—Quite hardy but cock rather quarrelsome.

JAVA SPARROWS.—Hardy but dull birds, this applies to both varieties, the White being especially dull.

BISHOPS.—The Napoleon Bishop I have not found to be very hardy, they don't appear able to stand cold weather and both died of pneumonia. Both quarrelsome especially the hen.

PARADISE WHYDAHS.—Same as above, only not quarrelsome.

RED-EARED BULBULS.—Hardy and active birds, and although fairly large are perfectly harmless to others.

RUDDY BUNTINGS.—Hardy, but at times very quarrelsome.

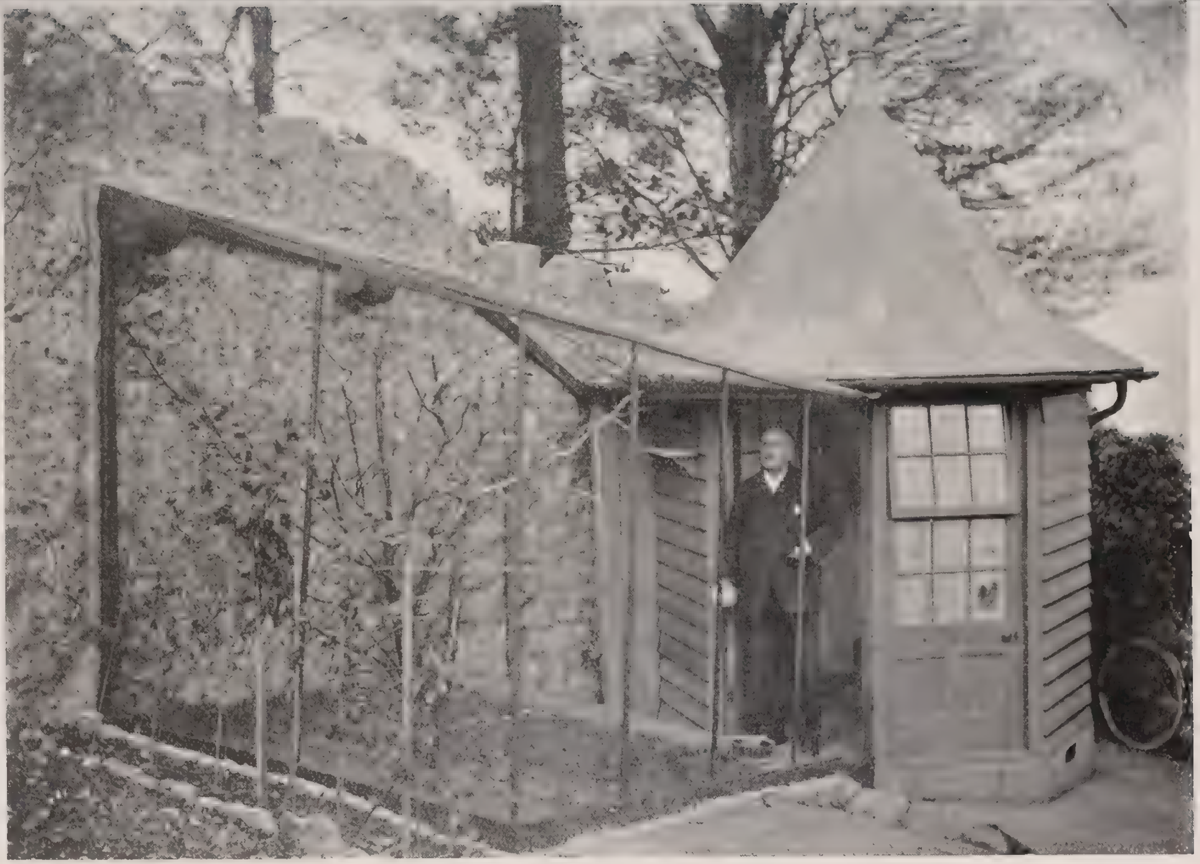
NUNS.—Tricolour and Black-headed Nuns, not hardy out of doors. Last winter during the sharp spell of frost we had, I lost three out of four Nuns within the week, which caused them to drop on to the ground in an apoplectic fit which proved fatal. To my own knowledge I know of some Nuns which have been kept out of doors for the last four or five years, and in an aviary not as sheltered as mine. So it will appear that individual specimens differ in hardiness.

MADAGASCAR WEAVERS.—Of which I have two cocks, are quite hardy and not quarrelsome.

SAFFRON FINCHES.—Quite hardy, quarrelsome at first, but settled down later.

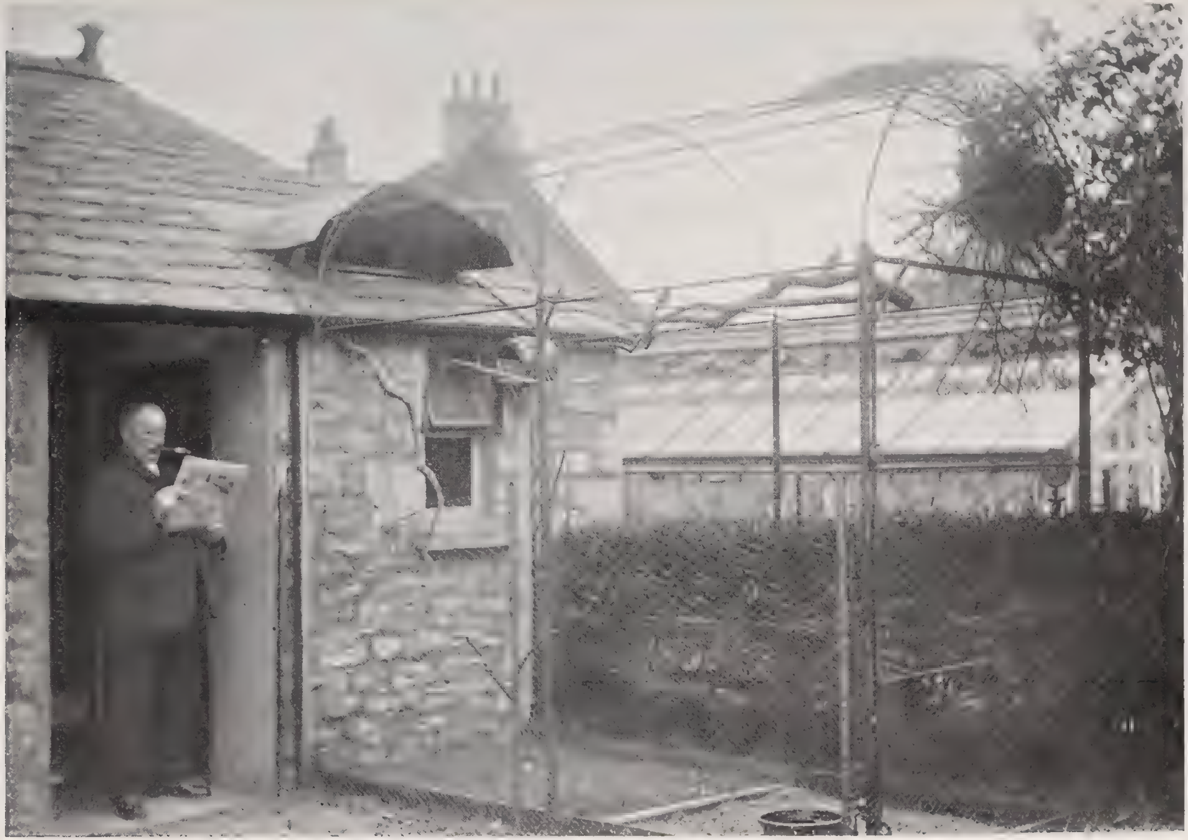
I have nothing worth noting about the rest of my birds, except that they are all hardy and inoffensive.

The keeping of birds, especially foreign species, is the most fascinating hobby I know of, and I have had a large variety in my time. The majority of hardbills are cheap to buy and not costly to keep. Softbills are, as a rule, more expensive to buy and cost at least four times as much to feed as hardbills do, but I think, take them altogether, they are much nicer snd more interesting than hardbills, they also become much tamer.



One of Mr. J. Smith's Aviaries.

Locality—Kendal.



One of Mr. J. Smith's Aviaries.

Locality—Kendal.

My Aviaries.

By J. Smith (Kendal).

Having had my aviaries photographed, I am sending two photos with a few notes for you to use if of sufficient interest. The photos speak for themselves. the aviaries consisting merely of flights, attached to existing buildings, a portion of the latter being divided off as sleeping and breeding quarters.

These arrangements have answered well as regards the well-being of my small collection of birds, and have given me endless interest and pleasure, and also much disappointment, for that feature, which we all look forward to with much expectation, has been almost entirely lacking, viz. the nesting of our pets and successful rearing of young. Practically my only successes have been the rearing of forty-seven young by three pairs of Budgerigars, but these at their present market value, scarcely pay for the food they eat, and seven Cockateels.

The occupants of my aviaries are as follows:—

Aviary No. 1 (opposite).

1 pair Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximus*).
1 ,, Stanley ,, (*Platycercus icterotis*).
1 ,, Many-colour ,, (*Psephotus multicotor*).
1 ,, Passerine ,, (*Psittacula passerina*).
1 ,, Cockateels (*Calopsittasus novœ-hallandiœ*).

Aviary No. 2 (facing page No. 12).

1 pair Green Budgerigars.
1 ,, Yellow ,,
1 ,, Grey-headed Lovebirds.
1 ,, Black-cheeked ,,
1 ,, Cockateels
1 ,, Cutthroats.
1 ,, Zebra Finches.

In No. 1 Aviary, the birds have all continued in excellent health and plumage, and, I attribute my lack of breeding successes to the various species quarrelling almost continually during the breeding season, though happily, I have no tragedy to record. In this aviary during 1908, seven Cockateels were reared, and I came very near success with Passerine Parrakeets (Blue-winged Lovebirds). The Passerines sat closely on a clutch of four eggs, but when they were about due to hatch, the cock died and the hen at once ceased her duties of incubation; this was most annoying as all the eggs were fertile, each containing a well developed chick. This year (1909), thinking to give the Parrakeets a better chance, I removed all except the Rosellas, Stanleys, and Many-colours, with, I regret to say, no better result--quite a number of eggs, both in the nests and on the ground in the outside flight. I can only attribute this to the Rosellas and the Stanleys living in a state of continuous strife ; quite late in the season I removed the Stanleys and the Rosellas, and Many-colours have condescended to dwell together in peace—if this happy state continues when the breeding season comes round again, I shall hope to have some successes to record.

I may say, that to brighten up the place a little, I introduced a pair of Budgerigars, but it was only by prompt action that I saved their lives, for one of the Rosellas seized the cock and carried it the whole length of the flight before I was able to rescue it.

In No. 2 Aviary I have fared no better, save with the aforementioned Budgerigars and Cockateels. The only others to attempt nesting operations being the Black-cheeked Lovebirds ; these constructed a large nest in a log very high up, and twice I missed them for periods of fully six weeks, but nothing came of it, to my great disappointment.

I have transferred the Stanley Parrakeets to this aviary, and I am hoping that the successes of the coming season may in some measure redeem the failures of the past.

[As showing the difference in the demeanour of individuals of the same species, I may say that in an aviary only about 12ft. x 10ft., x 6ft. high. I have Rosellas, Conures, Cockateels, a small crowd of Budgerigars, Rosy Pastors, Ouzels, Cardinals, Doves, and Sibias, all living together in amity.—I have kept Rosellas with small Finches and Waxbills and never had a tragedy therefrom, while Budgerigars are simply murderous with Finches, etc.—It is only from the many records, that the true demeanour of any given species can be accurately gauged.—Ed.]

BRITISH BIRDS.

The Lesser Whitethroat.

(Sylvia curruca).

By R. Suggitt.

The Lesser Whitethroat is a great favourite of mine, and, for some years I have always been in the possession of one or more pairs. As a rule when an object is common and easily attained it lacks interest. This, however, is not the case with me respecting this chastely-coloured and graceful warbler. During the autumn period of migration I have caught many in my garden (most of the warblers are plentiful here [Cleethorpes, Lincs.] during July, August, and September). I have caught as many as nineteen in one day, and after selecting two or three pairs of each kind, liberate the remainder. Quite ninety per cent. of these warblers take kindly to cage life from the first. I do not coddle them; they are placed in roomy cages, three or four in each, and they feed from the first on gentles, fruit, and soft food. They eat very little soft food for a few days, but afterwards partake of it freely, bananas, ripe pears and apples are gladly eaten. Gentles I am convinced are a valuable food for adult birds, but must not be used until they are thoroughly cleansed. I use clean dry sand for scouring purposes changing the sand at least three times on as many days before using them.

The Lesser Whitethroat is by no means delicate, the drawback however to wintering outdoors is its inability to stand a damp cold atmosphere. If kept dry under cover it is not apparently either sick or sorry, with 20 degrees of frost (actually in bird room), outside it is more difficult to handle. I have a pair at the present time which I left out in 1906 until December 20th. During the few previous days there had been sharp frosts ranging from 8 to 13 degrees, and noticing them both quite lame I removed them to my bird shed, and upon examination their feet were found to be badly frozen. The cock has a deformed toe caused by the frost, but is otherwise in perfect condition and a great favourite.

In the aviary they are always on the move. When you approach they are alert, and if a stranger goes near them they will sit upon a twig almost upright craning their necks and scolding; they sing most of the day during the summer. They are peaceful except amongst themselves, and I have never noticed them interfere with other birds. Although upon more than one occasion nests have been built, I think the keeping of more than one pair has stood in the way of any definite result.

At liberty, the nest, a shallow structure of dried grass lined with hair, is frequently found in brambles and small bushes, hazel, etc., which this species appears to greatly favour as a nesting site; to this habit it owes its popular name, viz., Hazel-Linnet. The clutch varies from 5 to 6, and incubation takes place in May. The eggs are creamy white, blotched and spotted with brown and grey.

Description.—*Adult Male:* Top of head, smoke-grey; nape, back, and tail coverts, brownish-grey; lores and ear coverts, dark brown; wings, ashy-brown with most of the feathers margined and tipped with a lighter brown; tail, dark brown with the outer feathers greyish; under surface, white with a faint pinkish tinge; flanks, buffish; bill, blackish; legs and feet, slaty-grey; iris, white. Total length 5¼ ins., of which the tail measures barely one third. *Adult Female:* Similar, but slightly smaller and the lines of her plumage more subdued. The nestling plumage of both sexes is similar to that of the adult female, but the light margins of the wing feathers are more pronounced.

I have found British and Foreign species to agree fairly well together in the same aviary.

Preserving Gentles for Winter Use.

By R. Suggitt.

Possibly the following may be known to our members, but it was new to me when I stumbled across it in the following manner. During last March as I was digging over part of my aviary in preparation for re-sodding, in a part where the previous summer I had reared two broods of Harlequin Quails under a frame, I turned up a number of maggots quite fresh and not even turned into the pupæ stage; there were scores of them which had been scattered among the grass in June and August—this decided me to try and store them in some similar manner for winter use. To this end, during the months of August, September, and October, I bred many more than I required for immediate use; these I placed in tins full of wet sand; some of the tins I buried, others I kept in a shed, moistening the sand from time to time to prevent pupation or the imagos from emerging. I also buried a tank, some four feet by two, to the ground level, into which I put several gallons of gentles; these I examined to-day (December 30th), they were perfectly fresh and I am sure no one could tell them from recently bred ones. I estimate that this store will last me all through the winter—the experiment has certainly proved a complete success.

Book Notices and Reviews.

The Birds of the British Islands, by Charles Stonham, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., with illustrations by L. M. Medland, F.Z.S. Parts xiv and xv. Roy. quarto. Grant Richards.

It is scarcely too much to say that the numbers of this slowly maturing work are progressive in their excellence, whether we regard the interest of the letterpress or the beauty of the illustrations. Certainly the two parts under review are particularly charming. For one thing we have arrived at families, which by the sinuous gracefulness of form and the exceeding delicacy of markings exhibited by many of their species, lend themselves in very high degree to the artistic sensibilities and the facile pencil of Miss Medland. For instance, her figures of the various *Rallidæ* and even of our two members of the *Otididæ* are considerably more than figures—they are pictures, and more than that, they are pictures which leave nothing to be desired, whether we regard the birds themselves or the exquisite treatment of their surroundings. And when we come to the *Charadriidæ* what can be said among others of the Ringed Plover, the Lapwing, the Turnstone, the Woodcock, and the Snipes? It may be left to the imagination of those who already know something of our artist's beautiful work.

As usual, the author's descriptive articles shew a general fulness of detail not to be found in other text books, accompanied by a crispness of style which highly commends his work from a literary point of view, and lifts it once into the position of a classic. It is difficult within the limits of a short notice to do Mr. Stonham full justice, but prospective subscribers may rest assured that the field naturalist, the sportsman, and the stay-at-home student alike will neither of them be disappointed in his companionship by their library fire.

As an instance of his thoroughness (and incidentally also of the truth of an old adage as to there being nothing new &c.) we find that the Crane, which used to breed in East Anglia in considerable numbers to nearly the end of the 16th century, was actually protected by Act of Parliament in even those benighted days. And yet it has long been extinct as a British resident, and once more shows that the most vehement strivings of the economist are as nothing against the resistlessness of natural forces.

British and Foreign Birds

at the Scottish National Cage Bird Society's Show Edinburgh.—Dec. 31st, 1909, and Jan. 1st, 1910.

By H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

BRITISH SECTION.

Our esteemed and energetic Editor, having himself described the choice exotic birds at the recent exhibition of the London Cage Bird Association, deputed the present writer to do the same for the splendid show of birds that was seen at the Corn Exchange, in the Grassmarket, at Edinburgh, on December 31st, 1909, and January 1st, 1910.

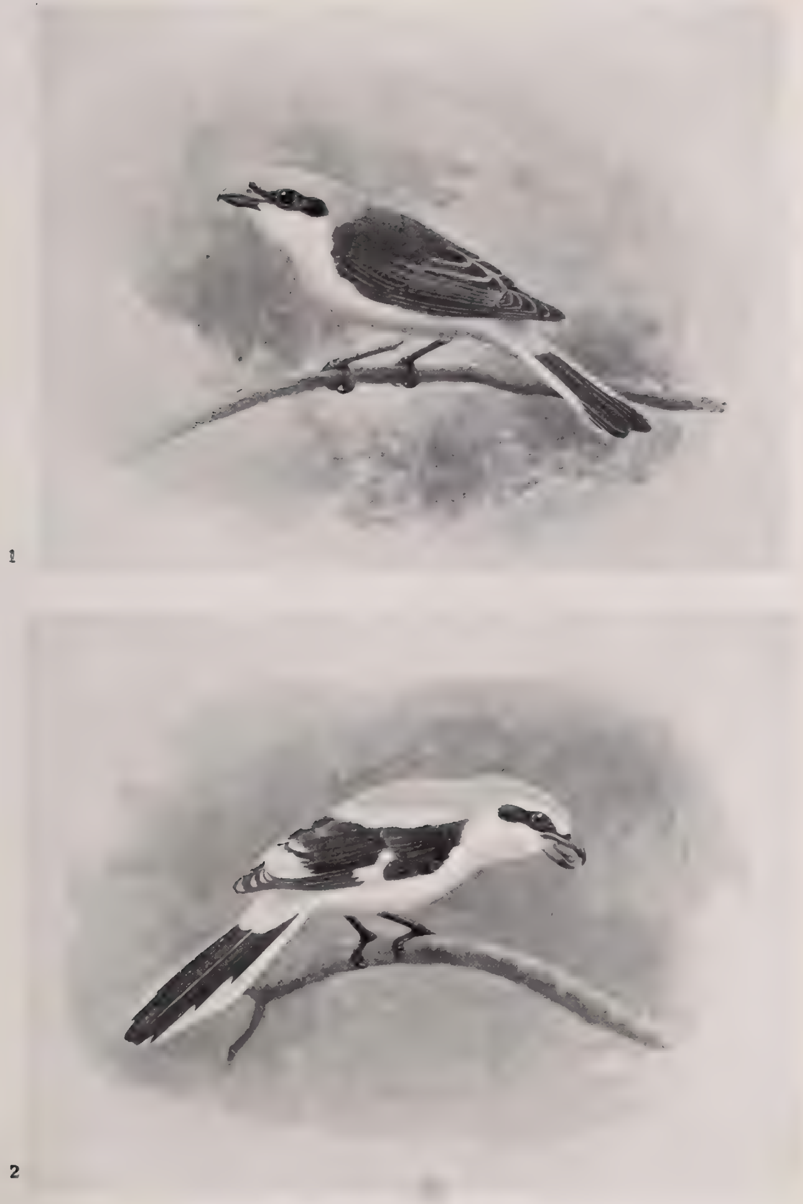
The very generous classification provided (24 classes all told) for British Birds, was responded to with a total of 419 entries, an average of over 17 per class. As at any other large show, most of the classes were of no special interest to ornithologists, being arranged for the more commonly kept Finches and Buntings.

As showing the interest taken by our Northern friends in some of these birds, we may instance the Bullfinch, for which, in the British Bird Section, two classes were provided, that for males having 25 entries and that for female birds having 24, while foreign Bullfinches, in the exotic section, had two classes (♂ and ♀ as before) with four and five entries respectively, a total of 58 Bullfinches entered for one show. There were also 47 Linnets (the "Lintie" of our Scottish friends), 36 Greenfinches ("Green Linnets,") 32 Siskins, and 31 Goldfinches, these last, as with the Bullfinches, including the separate class for Foreign specimens.

Other Finches and Buntings mustered strongly, while the seven classes for unspecified birds, with 81 entries, contained many charming and interesting feathered gems that one rarely gets a sight of either in captivity or in nature.

The classes were arranged as follows :—

Mr. J. Goodfellow.	Goldfinch (British)	...	16 entries.
	Bullfinch ,,	...	25 ,,
	Linnet (house moulted)	...	19 ,,
	,, (not house moulted)	...	28 ,,
	Bramblefinch	...	17 ,,
	Chaffinch	...	18 ,,
	Greenfinch	...	14 ,,
	,, (non colour fed)	...	24 ,,
	Siskin	...	13 ,,
	,, (non-colour fed)	...	20 ,,



Two Exhibits at the Scottish National Show.

1. Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collúrio*).
2. Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excúbitor*).

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

Mr. J. Dixon	Mealy Redpoll or Twite ...	14 entries.
	Lesser Redpoll ...	20 „
	Yellow Bunting ...	15 „
	Buntings (any other species) ...	15 „

Small Soft-billed British Birds not larger than Skylark ...	18 entries.
Larks and Pipits	10 „
Any species soft-billed British Birds larger than Lark ...	13 „
Any species British Birds not classified above (Birds of Prey excluded)	6 „
Hen Bullfinches (excepting Russian)	26 „
Hens, any species of seed eater	15 „
Hens, any species of soft-bill	5 „
Albinos, etc.	12 „
Any species British Bird (price restricted)	20 „

These were judged by our member Mr. C. T. Maxwell, except the last, which Mr. J. Goodfellow took.

The first of the classes to interest ornithologists was that for Buntings, any species other than yellow. The 1st prize went to a Corn Bunting, while 2nd was awarded to a Bunting, the like of which was probably never seen at an exhibition. It was described in the catalogue as an "Ortolan," but it certainly was not that. Mr. Sykes, of Musselburgh, was the first to identify it, he having discovered a description to fit it in Dr. Butler's "Foreign Bird Keeping" it then being named the Red-backed or Ruddy Bunting, its habitat apparently being the Eastern side of Asia; and yet this bird was exhibited in a class for "British Birds"! The bird itself was in splendid condition, and was very tame; the plumage is as follows: head, throat, fore-chest back, upper-tail coverts, rump, inner secondaries, medium coverts and shoulder, russet; rest of wing and tail, bark brown; under surface, lemon yellow; lightly spotted on flanks with chains of grey; eye, dark brown; feet, flesh-brown; beak, the same, darker. Size about that of a Reed Bunting only of stouter build. The present writer made a careful study of it, with a view to setting at rest any doubt as to its identity. It was exhibited by Mr. Robert Kirkwood, jun., of Falkirk. No less than four Meadow Buntings *(Emberiza cia)* were in this class, and it would be of great interest to ornithologists to know in what localities in Britain these four birds were captured. Three Snow Buntings, two Corn Buntings, two Cirls, a Reed Bunting, and a male specimen of the true Black-headed Bunting *(Emberiza melanocephala)* were also shown.

The class for small Insectivorous British Birds (generally containing the most fascinating birds in the section) boasted 18 entries, with two Black Redstarts (one exhibited by our member, Mr. S. Beaty; *vide* plate) a Blue-throated Warbler, three Bearded Tits, a Red-backed Shrike (the first I ever remember seeing at a bird show; *vide* plate) a bird entered as a Gold-crested Wren by Mr. G. G. Henderson (described in the weekly papers as a Fire-crested Wren, but this species the present writer failed to find), while Mr. Sydney L. Cocks exhibited a Yellow Wagtail, a Tree Creeper, and one of his most interesting Grasshopper Warblers. Two other Yellow Wagtails, a Grey Wagtail, a Wheatear, two Wrynecks, and a Willow Warbler were also entered.

The class for Larks or Pipits contained three Shorelarks, four Skylarks, and a Meadow Pipit.

The class for any species of Soft-billed bird, larger than a Lark, contained two Waxwings, a Chough, two Magpies, two Missel Thrushes, a Song Thrush, two Fieldfares, a Blackbird, and last but not least, a Great Grey Shrike. This last was in somewhat imperfect condition, having the primaries damaged. The class for remaining birds contained Hawfinches, which was its chief claim to attention.

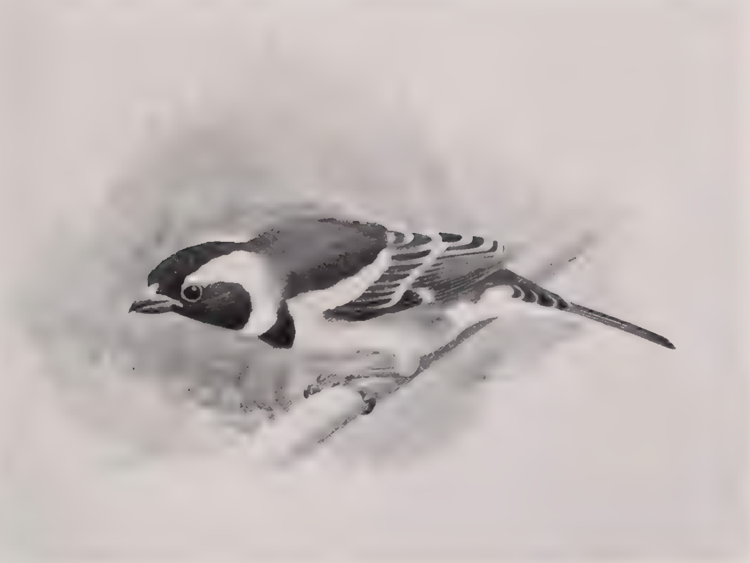
The class for any species of hen seed-eater had no birds of special interest in it, while that for any species of hen soft-billed birds had a Tree-creeper, a Grey Wagtail, and a Blackcap (shown by Mr. R. J. Howe).

The class for albinos, etc., had a dozen entries but we paid no attention to it on this occasion. The selling class contained a Nuthatch and a Blackcap amongst 16 other birds, mostly common species.

It should be remarked that the birds generally were in the high condition of feather, usual with our Northern friends, and it is a matter for congratulation both that members of the F.B.C. so far away from Edinburgh as Mr. Beaty, in Cheshire, should send their beautiful birds there, and also that our Club is getting well known among the residents, not only of the Modern Athens, but of the Lowlands of Scotland generally.

FOREIGN SECTION.

While the comparatively modest entry of 90 birds in the nine classes of the Foreign Bird Section was quite outclassed by the 400 old British birds, the quality and interest of these 90 birds made up for the lack of quantity and both to the ordinary visitor and to the



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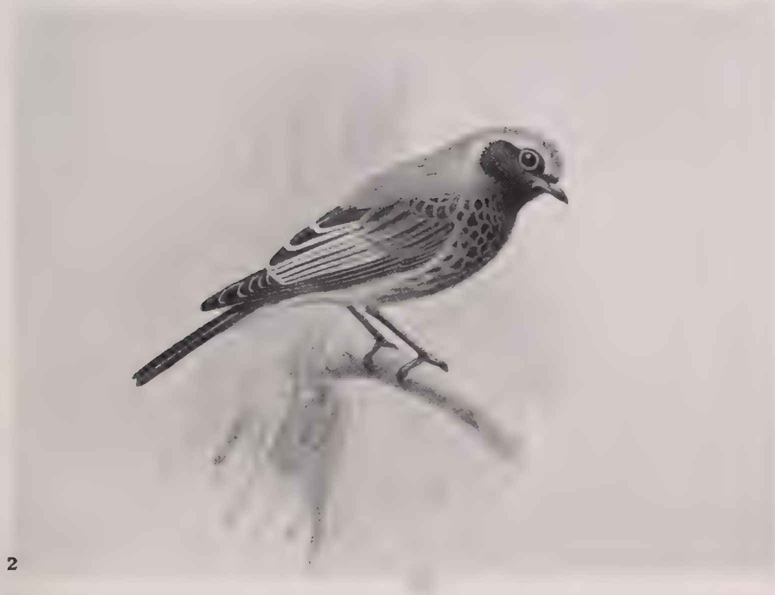

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Two Exhibits at the Scottish National Show.

1. The Cape Sparrow (*Passer arcuatus*).
2. The Black Redstart (*Ruticilla titys*).

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild. *See p.p. 18–22.*

ornithologist, there were many amongst the charming exotics that one could not fail to admire.

By the courtesy of the show officials I was permitted both to commence my studies while birds were being unpacked and staged, and to continue them while the judging was going on. It was during this latter time that I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of our esteemed member, Miss Peddie Waddell, who was unheard of (to me at least) in the days when I lived in "Auld Reekie," but who has since won the gratitude of many exhibitors who were not able to look after their birds themselves when these were at the exhibitions, and also, one may suppose the gratitude (or saved the lives and beauty) of many of the birds themselves. Miss Peddie Waddell was already "on duty" when I arrived at the show on the Friday morning, and once I had been introduced to a few of her birds, I seemed to discover the others by instinct, not that her's were the only ones in faultless condition and health, but that all round, they seemed to be most at home, and to be seen to greater advantage than the others, possibly because they lived not far off, while their neighbours on the show bench were by no means neighbours at other times.

The two first classes (Foreign Goldfinches, 15 entries; Foreign Bullfinches, males, 4 entries, and females 5 entries) call for no special remark. The third class, for Parrakeets, had 6 entries by Miss Peddie Waddell, viz., Bourkes Parrakeets (1st prize) Rock Pebblers, Many Colours, Pennants and Black cheeked Love-birds (all these being pairs), and a male King Parrakeet. Two other entries of Black-cheeked Love-birds, four of Crimson Winged Parakeets, an unusually brightly coloured Blue-bonnet Parrakeet, unfortunately wild in its cage, when I went to draw it, and a very fine pair of Many Colours, shown by Mr. Gavin Alston. These last were also rather wild while being drawn. The short tailed Parrot class had the best Hawk-headed Parrot I ever saw, belonging to Mr. S. Beaty, a bird in perfect condition; a Senegal Parrot, belonging to our member Mr. Louis J. Arrighi, and a Blue fronted Amazon of Miss Peddie Waddell's.

The class for Waxbills, etc, had 19 entries, but nothing calling for special remark. The next class, for certain other seed-eating birds, showed the Melba Finch, a male in beautiful condition, shown by our member, Mr. F. Howe, while Miss Peddie Waddell entered a cock Virginian Cardinal and a cock Pintail Nonpareil, and our member Mr. G. M. Brotherstone had an interesting pair of Black-throated Cardinals, a cock Green Cardinal, and a cock Gouldian Finch. A Cape Sparrow in faultless condition and colour, being shown by Mr. Louis J. Arright, along with an unusually fine Pintail Nonpareil, Miss Morgan showing a Black-headed Gouldian Finch.

Tanagers, etc., with but 5 entries, had as usual some of the most brilliant birds of the show and the most brilliant of all of them was the Black-throated Tanager shown by our member Mr. W. H. Pickles. This deservedly got 1st prize A Festive Tanager of Mr. Henderson's was awarded 2nd and at one time seemed as if it would have to be removed, but fortunately it recovered towards the close of the show. Mr. Mason was 3rd, while Miss Peddie Waddell was 4th with an Archbishop Tanager, and Mr. Beaty showed a Tricolour.

In the remaining class Miss Peddie Waddell came 1st with an Indian Mynah (which looked much aggrieved when I drew him), 2nd with a Black-throated Laughing Thrush, Mr. Arright 3rd with a Baltimore Hangnest. and 4th went to Mr. Alex. Storrar with a Mynah.

The last class was for young amateurs on the light side of sixteen and contained 32 specimens of the commoner birds, whose exhibitors we may hope to see competing with their elders when they have passed the limit.

In conclusion, I must thank one and all that I was brought into contact with, for their courtesy and consideration, from our original member, Mr. James F. Dewar, who was the first one I went to see ; Mr. Winter, who granted me permission to draw in the show while the public was not admitted ; and lastly, but not least, to our two members, Mr Louis J. Arrighi, and Miss Peddie Waddell, who both most kindly gave me every facility for drawing their splendid specimens of exotics, at their own houses, and I trust that my first visit will not be my last to the "Scottsh National."

Editorial.

Rare Birds: As will be seen under "month's arrivals," our esteemed member, Mr. A Sutcliffe, is on a visit to Jamaica, Spanish Main, and adjacent islands, and the first consignment of living birds has recently come to hand—full details can only be given later, on Mr. Sutcliffe's return, but the following notes will, I am sure interest many.

Black and Yellow Creeper: (*Certhiola flaveola*): This species, I am of the opinion, is new to aviculture, and is very beautiful, dainty and fragile in appearance. The native name is Banana Quit, it is not much larger than a Humming Bird, in fact, is often seen in company with them, probing the same flowers for nectar and insects, but their method of doing so is very different, Their short wings give them no hovering power, so perforce they have to cling Tit-like to stem, tendril, leaf or flower to gain the necessary provender for themselves and their family. P. H. Goss, in "Birds of Jamaica," writes of their nesting habits as follows:

> "The nest of this bird is very frequently, perhaps usually, built in 'those low trees and bushes, from whose twigs depend the paper nests of the "brown wasps, and in close contiguity with them. The Grass Quits are said "to manifest the same predilection: it is a singular exercise of instinct, "almost of reason; for the object is doubtless the defence afforded by the "presence of these formidable insects; but upon what terms the league of "amity is contracted between the neighbours, I am ignorant.
>
> "It is in the months of May, June, and July that this Creeper performs "the business of incubation. . . . . I have seen several "completed nests. One now before me is in the form of a globe, with a "small opening below the side. The walls are very thick, composed of dry "grass, intermixed irregularly with the down of *Asclepias.* It appeared to "have been forsaken, from my having paid it too much attention."

A similar nest, which was examined later, contained two eggs, greenish-white, thickly but indefinitely dashed with reddish, at the larger end, size $\frac{5}{8}$ in. by rather less than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. The following description is from a body kindly sent me by our esteemed member, Mr. Suggitt, who is receiving and housing the various consignments as they come to hand.

Adult male: Upper surface black, excepting the rump, which is rich yellow; the wings are black, with the outer web of primaries white at base and finely edged almost their entire length with the same hue; the secondaries, tertiaries and tail feathers are all finely tipped with white; eye streak white; throat darkish grey; under surface yellow, their hue being very deep and rich on the breast; ventral region and under tail coverts whitish; underside of wings white. Total length just over 4 in., wing expanse 6 in., tail $1\frac{1}{3}$ in. Mr. P. H. Gross describes this bird as being very confiding and that it can be closely observed in a state of nature at the distance of a few feet. It is indeed a beautiful species and I most certainly hope that sufficient will be sent over for them to be distributed among those members having such aviaries as will give them a chance of breeding —this species is certainly worth more than its weight in gold.

Red-throated Blue Tanager (*Tanagrella ruficollis*): A pair of this lovely species which has been exhibited by our esteemed member, Mr. C. T. Maxwell, for the past two years—has come to hand in good condition and it is to be hoped that more will follow, as they are an excellent species for aviculturists to experiment with and grand subject for the garden aviary during the summer months. The native name is Orange Quit, it is also known as the Feather-tongue or Soursop bird. It is very abundant in the orange groves when the fruit is ripe. General colouration: Deep blue (not irridescent), with throat of a deep rich rufous hue. The female is principally greenish-grey and olive brown, with ashy under surface. Total length, 5½ in., tail 2½ in."

Blue Quits (*Euphonia jamaica*). A pair of this interesting species—called by Lath the Grey Grosbeak—has come to hand, and I think this also is new to aviculture. It is of a stout build, having but a short tail, which forms barely a third of its total length, 4½ in. It is Tit-like in its demeanour to the extent that when foraging for food, no position comes amiss to it and is most interesting to watch when so engaged.

Male: Upper surface glossy slaty-blue, washed with green on the rump; quills blackish-blue; throat, breast and sides of body palish grey; remainder of under surface yellow; under tail coverts white.

Female: Similar to the male but duller and without any yellow on the undersurface; the upper tail coverts are yellowish-green. The consignment also includes quite a large number of doves, including several interesting species, one of which I think is new to aviculture, viz., the ring-tailed pigeon (*Columba carribea*), the following description is from Goss's "Birds of Jamaica":

> "Length 16 in., tail 5¾ in. Irides, brilliant orange; orbits, carmine; "beak, black; feet coral-red. Crown, sides of head and fore-neck, obscure "reddish-purple; throat white. Back of neck splendid purplish-green; back, "rump, thighs, and parts beneath the wings, pale blue. Basal half of tail "pale blue, gradually merging into a blackish blue bar nearly an inch broad, "which crosses the feathers; thence to the tip greyish-blue. Wing quills "blackish-brown, the first five edged with white; coverts towards the back, "and the pinion [winglet ?] dull olive; the rest of a very dull blue. Breast "and belly dull reddish-brown. Weight 10oz. 2dr.—(Robinson, M.S.S., ii, "144, abridged)."

The other specimens coming to hand are White-wing Doves (*Turtur leucopterus*); Pea Doves (*Zenaida amabilis*) also known as the Zenaida Pigeon; Bald-pate (*Columba leudocephala*), best known in this country as the White-crowned Pigeon; White-bellied Pigeon (*Peristera jamaicensis*), a very beautiful species; Ground Doves (*Chamæpelia passerina*); Partridge Dove (*Geotrygon montana*). Shall hope to refer to some of these species again in a later issue. I expect before these lines are in print another consignment will have arrived.

A Homing Stanley Parrakeet. Our esteemed member, Mr E. J. Brooks, informs me that a Stanley Parrakeet, which escaped from his aviary last August and not been seen since, has just returned to its aviary and is in excellent condition. This bird has evidently had no difficulty in catering for itself, even though, presumably, it has remained in the North the whole period—the latter portion of this period, November and December were anything but kindly as to climatic conditions for a tropical bird to fend for itself in a strange country. This amply demonstrates that this species can be kept out of doors all the year round.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe. All interested in bird-life, will learn with deep regret of the passing away on December 25th last of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, the able and energetic head of the Bird-room of the British Museum. His ready courtesy and kindly help to those seeking his aid in the naming of skins of rare birds or living specimens, made for him many friends, and, he will be much missed both by the casual and regular frequenters of the Bird-room. He commenced his career as a clerk at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Sons', passing thence to Mr. Quaritch's ; in 1869 he entered upon the duties of (first) librarian to the Zoological Society, and in 1872 he passed to the Bird-room of the British Museum ; at this period (1872) the number of specimens was well under 50,000 ; at the time of his demise, the total was but little short of half a million. The Catalogues of the British Museum, as well as various monographs, bearing his name on their title pages, will ever remain a monument of his ability, energy, and thoroughness.

The Longevity of Birds. The reading of the record of a Zebra Waxbill living for the space of nine years as a cage bird, in an ordinary room (vide "Cage Birds," January 8th, 1910), reminds me that such records are of much interest, that evidently many do not consider such sufficiently noteworthy to place on record. This is not so and I trust our members will place on record cases of longevity, not only among their own birds, but also any which come under their notice—the species in question is one of the most enduring of the Waxbills, and I have had numerous cases of their living over eight years, out of doors in my garden aviary all the year round. At the present time I have a pair of Cockateels, simply perfect as regards plumage and vigour, which came to me fully adult, and have been in my possession nine and a half years, and apparently are quite likely to live as many more. Fully one half of the occupants of my aviaries at the present time have been with me for periods varying from five to ten years.

Errata. The Wryneck. Mr. F. Howe writes me that he has been misprinted in his article in December issue of *B.N.* He gave the call note as kek-kek-kek-kek and not "keki-keki-keki-keki" as printed.

Correspondence.

LATE BREEDING OF BLACK CHEEK LOVE BIRDS.

SIR.—It may be of interest to you to know that I now have (Dec. 22) two young Black Cheeked Love Birds flying about, just able to feed themselves. The parents have been trying to breed all the spring but without success. There is another hen sitting on two or three eggs. The Black Cheeks have hatched several young birds which died on coming out of nest or learning to fly. They fed on millet, canary seed, spray millet, and oats, and green stuff G. B. WRIGHT.

A RARE ACQUISITION.

SIR.—In reply to your enquiries,—The Tickell's Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelli*) was sent me last week by Mr. Galloway, of Reading, who states that it has moulted with him; it is a cock bird and a good songster; as regards the latter it has not yet favoured us with a performance.

The bird is similarly shaped to, but slightly smaller than, an English Robin. The colour of the head, back and tail, being very dark blue; the wings are blue, suffused with a brownish tinge; throat and breast pale orange, toning off to pale lemon on the abdomen. Large and lustrous black eyes, black beak, and light coloured legs and feet.

I am sending this description, but if our bird is a cock it does not agree with that given by Oates in the "*Fauna of Brit. India*" (copy of which I quote below); either the bird is immature, or has lost his red breast in the moult in this country, as the Nonpareil Bunting does, or it is a hen.

He is very active, darting all about his cage and has a peculiar way when excited of flicking his tail up, spreading it out like a fan, and lowering it quite slowly.

DIET: He gets Galloway's "Life Mixture" and about six mealworms per day.

It is also known as Horsfield's Blue Redbreast and Tickell's Blue Redbreast.

I have just heard from Mr. Galloway confirming his previous statement —"it is a cock and one of those species unable to keep their full natural colouring in captivity,"—he also writes as follows:—

> "When I first received him, his breast was not a genuine red colour—I should call it a rich terra-cotta colour, not the real terra-cotta, but of a lighter shade."

This you will see brings him into agreement with Oates' description, but he uses the term ferruginous.

> "*Cyornis rubeculoides* (Blue Throated Redbreast). COLOURATION Male: Forehead and a streak over the eye, glistening blue; lores and the feathers at the base of the bill, black; ear-coverts, dusky blue; upper plumage, dark blue, the tail with black shafts and the inner webs mostly brown; wings, dark brown, each feather narrowly edged with dark blue; lesser wing coverts, bright blue; chin, throat, cheeks and sides of neck, dusky blue; breast and upper abdomen, bright ferruginous; lower abdomen and under tail-coverts, white; under wing-coverts, pale ferruginous."
>
> "*Cyornis tickelli* (Tickell's Blue Flycatcher) from Fauna of British India, Oates, Vol. II, page 25. COLOURATION. Male resembles the male of *Cyornis rubeculoides*, but is larger and of a duller colour; the rufous of the breast rises up into the throat and chin, leaving only the extreme point of the latter black.
>
> "Female resembles the male closely. The whole upper plumage, sides of heads, coverts and visible portions of the closed wings and tail, dull blue; forehead, eyebrows, and bend of wing, shining cobalt blue; lores and feathers over the nostrils, whitish; chin, throat and breast, pale orange; remainder of lower plumage, whitish.
>
> "The young are streaked with fulvous and resemble the young of the other members of the genus. Iris, brown; bill, blackish; legs and feet, bluish brown, dusky bluish, or bluish grey. Length, nearly 6in.; tail, 2·5in.; wing, 2·8in.; tarsus, ·7; bill from gape, ·75.
>
> "DISTRIBUTION. The whole peninsular of India except Lind and the extreme N.W. portion. It is absent from the Himalayas. It appears to be resident wherever found, but may be locally migratory according to season and place. This Flycatcher occurs in Ceylon up to 4000ft.
>
> "HABITS. Breeds in May, June and July, constructing a nest of dead leaves and grass in a hole of a bank or tree, laying three eggs, which are so thickly speckled as to appear of an olive colour or brownish rufous throughout. Size ·76in. by ·56in.

I have also quoted Oates' description of C. *rubiculoides*, as the description of *tickelli* is not complete without same.

TINNISWOOD MILLER, F.Z.S

THE NESTING OF PEKIN ROBINS.

Sir.—You will be interested to learn that last August I came very near having some Pekin Robins hatched out. The old birds built a deep cup-shaped nest, somewhat like a Whitethroat's, in a Box bush, in the out-door aviary. Three eggs were laid and closely incubated for ten days; on the 11th day one egg had disappeared, the two remaining ones also disappeared, one each morning. This was disappointing as the eggs were fertile. I fancy the old birds ate them, though there were no signs of their having done so.

W. T. Rogers.

BREEDING YELLOW BUDGERIGARS FROM GREEN PARENTS, &c.

Sir.—In response to your enquiry, in the course of your remarks on Mr. Willford's aviaries in November *Bird Notes* re Green Budgerigars producing young of the yellow variety, it may be of interest if I relate a similar occurrence in my aviary this year.

My aviary was completed last February and I turned in two pairs of Green Budgerigars—I have never possessed the yellow variety. After several abortive attempts each pair successfully brought up a brood and now four fine young birds are flying about the aviary, one of which is a pure yellow, with dark eyes, the undulating marks of the plumage being very faint and indistinct. I am unable to say whether my adult pairs were pure bred Greens, but they appear so.

I was much interested in Mr. Mathias' article on the "Breeding of Passerine Parrakeets, and it may interest him to hear that the odd cock I procured from him has been out of doors ever since I received it from him, and up to the present (December 30th) it is apparently very fit and vigorous.

M. J. Flannery.

SEXUAL DISTINCTIONS OF BLACK LORIES.

Sir.—In reply to your enquiry, I make out that the sexual distinction in the Black Lories is as follows: The hen has a slightly brighter eye than the cock, in both there is a thin ring round the pupil, this is of a bright brown colour in the cock, and golden in the hen. The difference is very slight but quite marked when the two are contrasted.

E. J. Brook.

MEMBERS' GATHERINGS.

Sir,—Do you think it could be arranged for as many of our members as care to do so, to meet, say, the first Wednesday in February, April, July and October (or any other date as might be arranged) at the Zoo, about 11-30 a.m., to be shown over the bird houses, &c., and we should be able to compare experiences, etc.

If you think the suggestion advisable I shall be glad if you will put it forward as a proposition.

WALTER SWAYSLAND.

[I am certainly in favour of Mr. Swaysland's suggestion, which I consider might with advantage be extended and that similar gatherings might be arranged N., S., E., and W., so as to meet the convenience of all. Will members kindly convey to me their opinions upon the matter, so that, shall I say, *experimental* gatherings, may be arranged as early as possible. —ED.]

Sir,—I should like to suggest that as many of our members as possible meet at the Palace Show ; have a dinner or something similar, and meeting afterwards, as I feel sure such would tend to the well-being of the club. J. H. HARRISON.

[Will all who care to attend such a gathering communicate with me at once and I will arrange for same, probably Saturday afternoon or evening would suit the majority.—ED.]

The Month's Arrivals.

On December 16th I received from my friend, Mr. A. Sutcliffe, who is holiday making in the West Indies, sixteen Passerine Ground Doves, fifteen White Winged Doves, six Pea Doves, four White Headed Doves, Three Violet Doves, Three Partridge Doves, and a Hen Ring-tailed Pigeon, What, however, was of more interest to me, was a cage of small birds. Mr. Sutcliffe despatched eleven Honey Suckers, nine Blue Quits, a pair of Orange Quits, and a Yellow Warbler. Seven of the Honey Suckers arrived alive, they are pretty little Black and Yellow Tree Creepers ; the pair of Orange Quits are Red-throated Blue Tanagers (*Glossoptila rufficollis*), they are both alive and in show condition. The nine Blue Quits had been kept in a small tamborine by some native boys for a week, and were in wretched condition when despatched, four of them however reached here alive, they are Tanagers (*Euphonia jamaica*) ; the Warbler was dead on arrival.

A second lot left Kingston, Jamaica, on December 16th, and reached me on the 31st, and when I say that it is my opinion that they had not been fed after leaving Port, it is needless for me to add that they were all dead, why the cages were despatched to me labelled live birds I do not know, probably it was a joke on the part of the party into whose charge they were given ; they would have been an interesting lot if they had been fed en route ; they were principally Tanagers and Tree Creepers, but past close examination. R.S.

I was fortunate enough to be at Mr. Hamlyn's last Friday, when some birds arrived from Jamaica, among them a cock Red-throated Blue Tanager, with three hens or immature cocks, and a bird which was quite new to me, which I take to be the Banana Quit. S.M.T.

Australian Finches. Recently a fairly large consignment of these much sought after and interesting species, have come to hand. Very probably however, by the time these lines are in print, most of them will have been disposed of ; they consist of the following :

Chestnut Finches.
Gouldian „
Parson „
Masked Grassfinches
Longtailed „
Sydney Waxbills.

All are being offered at reasonable prices, and should be worth our members consideration. W.T.P.

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent ; this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when they are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

Tuberculosis : PENNANT PARRAKEET. A member of the Foreign Bird Club sent a male Pennant Parrakeet for a post-mortem examination. The following is the history forwarded : The bird was one of a pair and had been ailing off and on for about three months. At one time the owner thought he had cured it, but about a fortnight ago there came a relapse and the bird died yesterday. The owner pointed out a growth over the eye.

The Pennants were kept in the same aviary as some Budgerigars, and have had the same food exactly as they have had, viz. : white oats, white and spray millet, white sunflower seed, and the "leavings" of the more expensive seeds from the Finches. The Pennants have never had access to milk. The hen Pennant is perfectly healthy. The pair were separated from the time the dead bird was first taken ill. One of the Budgerigars (a hen) flies with difficulty, but this has been so for some months, and is due, the owner thinks, to injury received and not to disease, as it was so before the Pennants arrived from a fancier.

The dead bird was very much emaciated and in consequence its breastbone was very prominent. There were some yellow tubercular bodies under the skin of the occiput, the posterior angle of right ramus of lower mandible, in the naso-palatine region and at the root of right lung, the anterior two-thirds of which were the seat of pneumonia. There was also a tubercle in the vicinity of the left carotid artery on a level with the syrinx. On the left upper eyelid there was a small wart-like growth. The left abdominal air-sac, on its internal surface, was lined with a yellowish exdate. The liver and other organs were free from tubercles.

The conclusion I came to was, that it was a case of tuberculosis, and on microscopical examination I discovered the bacillus of tuberculosis.

The remains were afterwards sent to Sir John McFadyean, Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, N.W., who informed me "Tubercle bacilli were very numerous in lesions in Parrakeet."

I shall fully deal with Tuberculosis in birds in a future number of *Bird Notes.*

Pintail Nonpareil (Mrs. Longdon). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Lesser Bird of Paradise. Cause of death, gape-parasite *(Syngamus trachealis)* in windpipe. There were also several specimens of tape-worm and a few hair-like worms in the small (anterior) intestine.

Hen Rosella (Wm. Shore Baily). I found on post-mortem examination an old standing lesion in the lung, and the abdominal air-sacs were the seat of a fibrinous inflammation. The breast bone was prominent, indicating that the bird had been ill some time.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

IMPORTANT.

The Magazine. The present issue is the first of a NEW SERIES, and the attention of members is drawn to the fact that it is printed and published by J. H. HENSTOCK, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, to whom all complaints re non-arrival, orders for extra issues, Bound Vols., and binding of loose parts should be sent.

New Members. It is feared that some who joined quite late in the year have not received the whole of the back issues due to them ; owing to change of publishers, some confusion has unavoidably arisen, and till our stock is transferred, such cannot be remedied. If all who are any issues missing of Vol. VIII. (*i.e.*—March to December, ten issues in all) will send full particulars to the *Hon. Business Secretary*, H. WILLFORD, Upland View, Havenstreet, I. of W., such shall be attended to as early as possible. *We trust this explanation will explain any apparent neglect.*

Late Publishing. This is owing to revision of Roll and re-arranging of Committees—of necessity, the first and last issues of any volume must be late.

BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

Volume I. is out of print.

Of Volume II. & III. there remain only a few copies,			
to Members and Associates	-	each	21/-
Volumes IV. & V. *with hand-coloured plates*			
to Members and Associates	-	each	10/6
to others	- - - -	„	15/-
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to Members and Associates	-	each	15/-
to others	- - - -	„	20/-

Cases for binding Vols. I., II., III., IV., V., VI. and VII. may be had, price **1/3** each post free.

Application for Bound Volumes and cases must be made to the Publisher.

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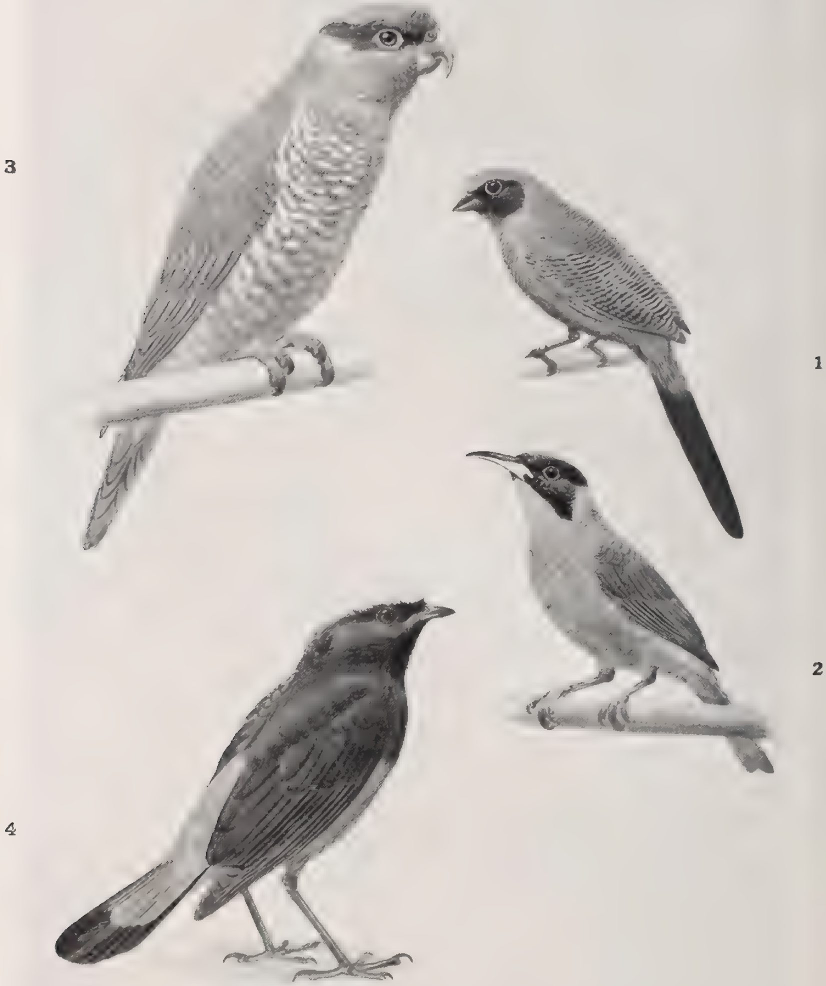

Some Notable Exhibits at the Palace Show.

1. Black-cheeked Waxbill exhibited by C. T. Maxwell.
2. Black-headed Sugar Bird exhibited by J. H. Harrison.
3. Mr. Johnstone's Lorikeet exhibited by O. Millsum.
4. White-capped Redstart exhibited by S. M. Townsend.

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

British and Foreign Birds at the National Show.

FOREIGN SECTION.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

I propose deviating from the usual course and noticing first, some of the more notable and striking birds, before dealing with the classes in general, and first of all making a few remarks as to length of show and suitability of building, as affecting the Foreign section.

In the first place I must congratulate the management. This left nothing to be desired, everything that could be done was done to make the conditions perfect, and Mr. J. Ramsden with his genial and untiring energy, was as usual, on hand whenever wanted, and the L.P.O.S. certainly merited the success attained.

BUILDING AND PERIOD OF SHOW. While I should regret to utter a word that would prejudice in any way an energetic society, still, though a member of the L.P.O.S., I cannot, as reviewing the show for *Bird Notes*, do other than frankly state that a more unsuitable building than the Crystal Palace would be hard to find. This is no new thought—for though almost superhuman efforts were taken, draught could not be eliminated; the efforts to mitigate the draught evil resulted in light being obscured, thus the poor exhibits had to contend with alternating currents of heat, cold draught, and bad light. Where these evils cannot be got rid of a new home should be found for the show, in spite of the draw the historic glass house is to bird lovers from a distance. Moreover the period is much too long for exotic species, the Sunday coming in between complicates matters still more, and I am convinced that till something is done in this direction Foreign Bird exhibiting will be on the decline, rather than on the increase. This is also in the light of the undoubted fact that Foreign Bird keepers are on the increase, and, in my opinion, this fully accounts for the Foreign Bird entries for 1910, being below those of 1909. I know several prominent exhibitors—their numbers will increase —who would not enter on that account. I am fully aware of the importance of the Saturday gate ; at the same time the birds must receive some consideration, and I am of the opinion that the case would be fully met by a show running from Wednesday to Saturday inclusive. Personally I do not believe the gate would suffer from the change, and my opinion is, that both the visitor from a distance and the Foreign Bird entries would soon show a decided increase.

We will now proceed to review the principal entrants, leaving the consideration of classes and awards till the end.

HUNSTEIN'S MAGNIFICENT BIRD OF PARADISE (*Diphyllodes magnifica*) :—This was the great attraction of the show, being much steadier, sleeker, and the hues of the plumage also appear to have deepened since it made its first bow to the public at the Horticultural Hall. I do not purpose giving a description here, as a coloured plate is in course of preparation and will appear in the present volume. Of much interest to aviculturists and bird students were the displays of the bird, one of which I was privileged to observe, being specially so. This consisted in the bird swelling out at the chest, dropping the wings, a sort of tremulous motion seeming to pervade all the feathers, the straw-coloured ruff at the bottom of the neck extended vertically, thus exposing the rich bronzy reds and golds of the upper back, and the long tail was extended in wide lateral curves. It was of great interest, the bird retaining the attitude and repeating it twice in succession—sufficiently long for me to take notes of the posture. It carried off premier honours.

MRS. JOHNSTONE'S LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus johnstoniæ*) : —According to our esteemed member, Mr. W. Goodfellow, who first imported this species alive, in 1905, and who described his experiences in the "Avicultural Magazine," January, 1906 ; it is found only on the mountains of Minadairo in the Southern Phillipines, ranging between an altitude of 4,000 and 8,000 feet. From their demeanour while in his possession, and the climatic conditions from which he took them, Mr. Goodfellow makes the following deductions :

"Given sufficient space I have no doubt that several pairs would "nest together in harmony, and perhaps like Budgerigars do so more "readily. They ought to thrive well in England so far as climate is con- "cerned. During February and March I kept a record of the temperature "at my camp on Apo, and at six o'clock in the morning I often found it as "low as 34 deg. Fah., while the highest mid-day temperature in the shade "was 62 deg. This was an isolated part for it more often reached only "56 deg. and 58 deg. Fah. This was the dry season during the N.E. mon- "soon, but in July and August the temperature would be somewhat "higher."

"At night I found the Lish-lish* all slept together, crowded into one "corner at the bottom of the cage, with their heads to the wall. I often "heard little squabbles going on in the night as one probably tried to get a "warmer spot and pushed others out. No doubt in their wild state they "sleep in this manner in the holes of trees for the sake of mutual warmth "during the cold nights in the high altitudes which they inhabit."

Their demeanour in cage life exactly corresponds with the above description. A brief description is called for, especially as the pair exhibited were young birds, and had neither the full depth of colour, and, also the red areas on head, face and throat, were somewhat restricted to what they will be later. A rough and ready description would be the head plumage of a Varied, and the body plumage of a Scaly-breasted Lorikeet. The body colouring is green, with the feathers of the under-surface yellow, margined with green, imparting a beautiful scaled appearance ; the forehead, throat, and streak under the eye and across nape of the neck, crimson ; legs and feet, bluish ; beak, coral-red with dark yellow edges. Their principal food when wild is honey, and in capitivity milk-sop and ripe fruit must form the bulk of their diet. In 1907 Mrs. Johnstone successfully bred this species in her aviaries at Groomsbridge, fully rearing two young birds. The old birds fed on spray millet, sweetened bread and milk ; half an orange also being consumed daily. Mrs. Johnstone found them to be perfectly hardy.

Though not yet having their full beauty of plumage, Mr. Millsum's pair of birds were a beautiful and rare exhibit, and well worth the award (2nd prize) they won. A most interesting species for aviculturists.

STELLA LORY (*Charmosyna stellæ*) :—This beautiful species, of which a fine male was exhibited by Mr. Millsum, has for several years graced the aviaries at Hoddom Castle of our esteemed member, Mr. E. J. Brook. It was indeed a beautiful species, words fail to more than indicate the glowing and glistening plumage, and as a coloured plate, from the brush of Mr. H. Goodchild, is almost ready, and will probably appear in the March issue, I shall content myself here with the merest description, which I made at the show.

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* Native Name.

Adult Male: Upper surface, rich carmine; back wings, dark green; rump, blue and dull-purple; a patch of longish lilacine feathers adorn the hind head, followed by a patch of black on the nape; under surface, crimson, very dark and intense—almost purplish—on the lower breast and sides of body and thighs; the tail is dark green, the two central feathers being over ten inches long and flexible, these are reddish-orange for the lower half and yellow at the tips; there are a few white streaks on the flanks surrounded with blue. Total length, about 15½ inches. A grand exhibit, perfect in every respect, carrying off the 1st and four special prizes. Mr. Millsum is certainly to be congratulated on his rare and beautiful acquisitions.

WHITE-CAPPED REDSTART (*Chæmorrornis leucocephala*): A very beautiful and uncommon exhibit, staged by our esteemed member, Mr. S. M. Townsend. All the Indian Redstarts are favourites of mines, of which I have kept two species, but have at the present only the Plumbeous (*R. fuliginosa*), and when I say that he is now spending his second winter out of doors, and is in exquisite condition, is in fact as blithe as a lark, I have said sufficient to indicate that they may be kept out of doors all the year round, in any aviary which supplies a night shelter and room for flight exercise.

Its colouration is roughly as follows: Top of the head and nape, pure snow-white; the general upper plumage is black, but the rump, upper and lower tail coverts, part of tail, and also the abdomen are rich chestnut; bill, black; legs and feet, dark brown. Total length, 7½ inches, tail 4 inches.

It ranges throughout the Himalayas and it only occurs on the lower levels as a winter resident. They frequent the banks of rivers and streams, picking up most of their food (insects) at the waters' brink.

Jerdon, in his "Birds of India," says:—

> "They are mostly ground birds, feeding on insects but fond of "shelter; some frequent thickets, others long grass, a few being more "arboreal. They usually nidificate on the ground."

The specimen exhibited was a typical Redstart, had the characteristic flick of the tail, was in good plumage and of a rich colour, being altogether an engaging little fellow. A most desirable bird for either cage or aviary. It won third prize for our popular exhibitional secretary.

BLACK-HEADED SUGAR BIRDS (*Chlorophanes spiza*): This species does not call for much mention, beautiful as it is, for it has been referred to on so many occasions in our journal, save perhaps to remind any of our members having a natural out-door aviary, with good shelter, that there would be a strong probability of this species breeding, as in Mr. Townsend's bird-room more than one clutch of eggs has been laid and also, I think, partially incubated. The specimen exhibited was one of the finest I have ever seen staged, but the race for premier honours was very close indeed, *C. spiza* only just scoring over Mr. Townsend's equally fit and beautiful *C. cyanea*, evidently on the ground of being slightly more uncommon. Mr. Harrison is to be congratulated on the exquisite and absolutely spotless condition of his exhibit.

SILVER-EARED MESIAS *(Mesia argentauris)*: These have now become too well-known to call for comment, save to point out their enduring character when understood. In 1901, when this species was unknown to English Aviculture,* my esteemed friend and fellow-member, Mr. E. W. Harper, brought over some of this species, and also some Blue-winged Sivas—a pair of each—the pair of Mesias soon passing into Mr. Harrison's, their present owner's hands, so that this particular pair of birds have certainly been in this country fully nine years; they were staged in spotless condition, without a flaw, carrying off 4th prize for their fortunate owner, who we congratulate on his success in keeping this species.

This paper has already become much too lengthy, and I must now pass the various classes in rapid review.

BUDGERIGARS AND A.S. OF LOVEBIRDS (4): The smallest class I ever remember to have seen, and only two species represented—the Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeet and the Black-cheeked Lovebird. Mention must be made of the excellent colouration and sleek condition of Mr. Townsend's beautiful specimen, which was a long way ahead of anything else in the class.

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* Possibly one or two had been presented to the Zoo a year or so earlier.

1, S. M. Townsend, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeet ; 2, F. Howe, Black-cheeked Lovebirds ; 3, R. G. P. Nelson, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeet ; 4, R. J. Watts, B.C. Lovebirds.

A.S. OF PARRAKEETS, LORIES, ETC. : A large and representative class of great merit, containing two species quite new to the show bench, both exhibited by Mr. O. Millsum, viz., the Stella Lory and Mrs. Johnstone's Lorikeets. I much regret, as regards the former, that the Palace draughts have been too much for it, and there appears to be little prospect of saving it. Another rarity by the same exhibitor was a lovely pair of Golden-shouldered Parrakeets. Another beautiful exhibit was Mr. C. T. Maxwell's Elegant Grass Parrakeet, in beautiful trim, but, we are told, it has a back claw missing. Another interesting exhibit was entered by Mr. F. Reeks, as an Adelaide Parrakeet. Unfortunately it had to be disqualified as it was an undoubted hybrid, probably between the Pennant and either the Red Rossella or Yellow-rump Parrakeet.

1, 2, 4 and specials, O. Millsum, Stella Lory ; Mrs. Johnstone's Lorekeet, and Golden-shouldered Parrakeets, all exquisite, a grand team ; 3, L. W. Hawkins, lovely Bourke's Parrakeet ; v.h.c, W. Baxby, Pennant's Parrakeets, very deep and rich colour ; h.c., W. A. Bennett, a good and richly coloured King Parrakeet ; c., J. C. W. Meadows, good pair of Barnard's Parrakeets.

Also exhibited, good specimens of Swainson's Lorikeet ; Red-rump and Rosella Parrakeets ; and Elegant Grass Parrakeet.

A.S. of PARROTS, COCKATOOS, etc. (12) : Another strong class, but yet nothing calling for special mention—the Hawk-headed and Meyer's Parrots have been already fully noted—Mr. L. W. Hawkins' true pair of Grand Eclectus Parrots were a glorious mass of rich, deep colour and appeared to have experienced hard luck in being cardless.

1, S. Beaty, rare Hawk-headed Parrot, faultless ; 2, Rev. G. H. Raynor, Mynor's Parrot, nearly twelve years old, in exquisite condition ; 3, A. Stubbings, Blue-and-Yellow Macaw, very fine ; 4, Mrs. K. Bury, good well marked Grey Parrot ; v.h.c., L. W. Hawkin's, nice Black-headed Caique ; h.c., W. Smith, Grand Eclectus Parrot ; c., Miss Bland, nice Senegal Parrot.

CERTAIN COMMON SPECIES of WAXBILLS, etc. (12) : A strong class of the freely imported common or species ; making a beautiful display and all in most creditable condition.

1 and 2, F. Howe, Diamond Sparrows and St. Helena Waxbills, very fine ; 3, S. Beaty, good pair of Nutmeg Finches, 4 S. M. Townsend, Golden-breasted Waxbills, v.hc., J. C. W. Meadows, good pair same species ; h.c.,

Miss M. Gibbons, nice Diamond Sparrow ; c., Ford and Son, White Java Sparrow.

A.S. WAXBILLS, WEAVERS, etc. (11) : A strong class, the two most uncommon exhibits of which were Mr. Millsum's Tricolour Parrot Finches and Mr. Maxwell's Black-faced Waxbill. The former have been exhibited several times previously, but not of recent years,—though beautiful birds they are not so handsome in the writer's opinion as the common Parrot Finch. The Black-cheeked Waxbill is another beautiful species, well known to students, but only cropping up at odd intervals and it is a very uncommon exhibit. It is exquisitely beautiful in its quiet colouring and chaste marking—it should be added to every collection of Waxbills as opportunity offers (see plate, fig. 1). The condition of all the birds was beyond praise.

1 and h.c., C. T. Maxwell, lovely pair of Violet-eared Waxbills, and an uncommon Black-cheeked Waxbill ; 2, F. Howe, superb Melba Finch ; 3, O. Millsum, very uncommon pair of Tri-coloured Parrot Finches ; 4 and v.h.c., Dr. H. Hetley, very fine Bichenos Finch, and Gouldian Finches ; c., Ford and Son, Paradise Whydah ; good specimens of Parrot, Painted and Red-headed Finches were also exhibited.

A.S. of GROSBEAKS, etc. (8) : The first prize winner in this class, exhibited by our esteemed member, Mrs. E. Galloway, a pair of Brown-winged Blue Grosbeaks,* was another first appearance on the show bench, but I only got a half day at the show and had to crowd so much into it, that I was unable to make very close observation, so I must reserve this interesting exhibit for further reference in a future issue. Unfortunately one of Mr. Maxwell's entries found its way into the wrong class, a pair of lovely Painted Finches finding their way here, owing to labels getting mixed I presume. Mr. Arrighi exhibited a lovely Cape Sparrow, this species has been rather uncommon of late, I have never that I can call to mind seen a specimen with such pure and clean facial markings as this—it was illustrated in our last issue, being drawn by Mr. Goodchild at the Scottish National Show.

1, Mrs. E. Galloway, Brown-winged Blue Grosbeaks, very rare exhibit ; 2, C. T. Maxwell, lovely and clean marked Hooded Siskin, but not so fiery a hue as some I have seen, very tight ; 3, J. Frostick, Pine Grosbeak, very fine ; 4, L. J. Arrighi, Cape Sparrow, one of the very best I have ever seen ; v.h.c., H. Botting, good pair of White-throated Finches ; h.c. J. Reed, Virginian Nightingale.

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* A friend identified it as *Guiraca coerulea.*

A.S. of TANAGERS (7): The smallest Tanager class I ever remember to have seen, but each exhibit was practically unique, and all have been fully described in this Journal—all were in faultless condition, fully demonstrating how fully these birds are now understood. For gorgeous, irridescent plumage they are unsurpassed.

1, C. T. Maxwell, Rufous-throated Blue Tanager; 2, W. H. Pickles, Black-throated Tanager; 3, J. H. Harrison, Maroon Tanagers; 4, S. M. Townsend, Magpie Tanager; v.h.c., S. Beaty, Tri-colour Tanager; h.c., R. J. Watts, Archbishop Tanager.

A.S. of SUGAR BIRDS, HONEY-EATERS, etc. (6): A Green Bulbul was entered here as Hardwicke's, but it proved to be an ordinary Gold-front (*C. aurifrons*). The 1st and 2nd prize winners ran one another very close indeed, both being in the very "finest touch of perfection," both as regards colour and lustre -the Black-cheeked being slightly the more uncommon, this, I expect just turned the scale in its favour.

The last two classes for A.O. Species, though as important as any in the show I propose to merely give the rewards, most of them being noted either in L.C.B.A. report or earlier in this report.

A.S. SMALLER THAN KING BIRD OF PARADISE (8): 1, S. Beaty, Levaillant's Barbet, very fit and rare; 2, C. T. Maxwell, Great-billed Flycatcher, very beautiful and rare exhibit, much better colour than when shown at L.C.B.A.; 3, S. M. Townsend, White capped Redstart (see plate); 4 and v.h.c., J. H. Harrison, grand pair of Silver-eared Messias and a lovely Blue-winged Siva; h.c., H. Lewis, nice pair of Painted Quails; c. Miss V. Lewis, richly coloured Pekin Robin.

A.S. AS LARGE OR LARGER THAN KING BIRD OF PARADISE (7): 1, O. Millsum, Hunstein's Magnificent Bird of Paradise, like silk, very rare and interesting exhibit; 2, C. Cushney, good Indian Pitta; 3, C. T. Maxwell, Lanceolated Jay, in good feather; 4, S. M. Townsend, Bronze Glossy Starling, this an uncommon species, which I did not recognise, should have been third; v.h.c., C. Cushney, Pied Indian Mynah, well known, but not often seen on the bench; h.c. and c., O. Puck, Blue-cheeked Barbet and Orange Hangnest in the order given.

In conclusion I am conscious that this report is altogether too bulky, but it has been written under much physical disability and will have to remain as it is—I must ask the forbearance of readers. I must also congratulate our members on the number of rare, beautiful and uncommon entries they sent in, and, also the L.P.O.S. on the success of their show in spite of the disadvantages they laboured under. It was a fitting wind-up to the Show Season, 1909-10.

BRITISH SECTION.

By H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

Even the fine total at the "Scottish National" Cage Bird Show was surpassed by the splendid entry of 434 cages of British Birds which the public has recently had the chance of seeing at the fifty-first annual show of the "L. & P.O.S.," held at the Crystal Palace on February, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th. The four judges of the British Section were all Members of the F.B.C., and two of them were original Members.

The classes were allotted as follows :—

Mr. J. F. Dewar's Classes : –Bullfinch, cock ; Bullfinch, hen.

Mr. G. E. Weston's Classes : Goldfinch, Linnet, cock or hen ; Chaffinch, cock or hen ; Lesser Redpoll, cock or hen ; Twite, cock or hen ; Siskin, cock or hen ; Bramblefinch, cock or hen.

Mr. Allen Silver's Classes : –Greenfinch, cock or hen ; Hawfinch, cock or hen ; Yellowhammer ; Bunting, any species other than the Yellow ; Blackbird ; Song Thrush ; Starling ; Magpie ; Jackdaw ; Jay or Chough.

Mr. W. Swaysland's Classes :—Pied, Albino, or rare feathered British Bird. Hens, any species of British Finch other than Bullfinch. Nightingale or Blackcap. Any species of Lark or Pipit. Any species small Resident birds Any species small Migratory birds. Any other species larger than Wheatear. Any Finch (limit class.)

Of the hundred odd birds in the classes for various species not named, there were many that an Ornithologist looks at with interest and pleasure.

The first of these various classes, that for Buntings other than the Yellow, contained as usual some choice birds, the rarest three being the Black-headed Bunting and the Lapland Bunting shown by Mr. Francis, while one very nice specimen of Meadow Bunting was also entered, along with a Cirl Bunting, two or three Snow Buntings and two Reed Buntings.

The Magpies, etc , mustered only seven entries, but amongst them were Mr. C. T. Maxwell's two beautiful birds, a Magpie and a Chough. The latter was the bird I had seen at the Horticultural Hall and thought was colour-fed. I am informed by both Mr. Frostick and Mr. Maxwell, however, that it was never colour fed at all and that the deep crimson of its beak and feet is due to its perfect health. Three other Choughs were entered in this class, and two Jays.

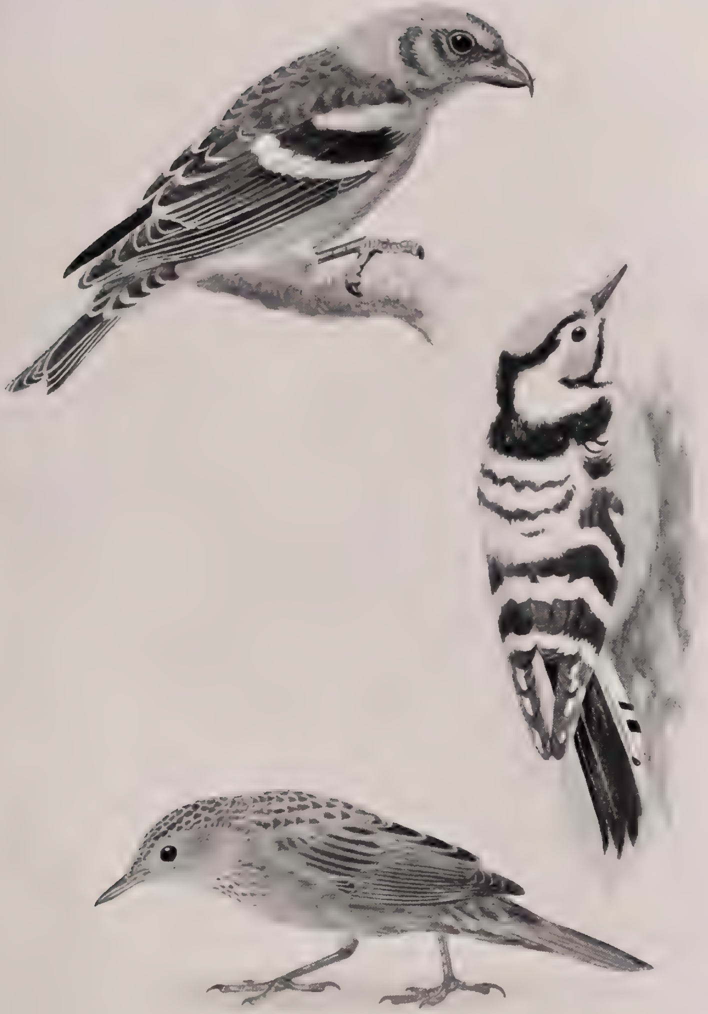
Mr. Swaysland's class of 14 Albinos, etc., contained, as usual, some birds that were amongst the most fascinating to the general visitor, notably the "White Blackbird" with the contradictory description; this particular one was not in the best of feather, as it looked, although so tame, to have suffered somewhat from travelling to and from shows. Doubtless the bird was in perfect feather after its last moult. Mr. Walsh's Silver Starling was again first, but was not in such condition as when we saw it at the Horticultural Hall. The second prize went to a pied Reed Bunting which was in splendid feather, and got a special as well. The most amusing bird in the class was the White Jackdaw, shown by Mr. G. W. Pocock, which seemed very much at home and to be enjoying the Show and the excitement incidental to its position. A lutino "Yellowhammer" was exhibited, the same one, I was informed, which was shown at the Crystal Palace about seven years ago, but as might be expected, it does not look quite so sleek and perfect now. The class for any females of British finches, had two Crossbills, one Mr. W. Lowne's and the other Mr. J. Goodall's, both these were good specimens.

Nightingales and Blackcaps together mustered nine, and Larks and Pipits eleven, with two or three Shorelarks, one of which (Mr. T. Erskine's) was a very choice specimen, the best I remember seeing at any show.

Class 118 with only eight entries, contained two Bearded Tits, one of which, despite his being provided with real reeds stuck in his cage, looked rather draggled, while the other (Mr. W. F. Merrin's) was charming, both in colour and in condition. Mr. S. L. Cocks showed one of his lovely exhibits, a silvery-breasted Common Tree-Creeper, which ran about all over the red baize lining of its cage in a way to both amuse and surprise the ordinary visitor. A common Wren was shown by Mr. Frostick, but the laurels for Ornithological interest in this class were won by Mrs. M. R. Frostick's Lesser-spotted Woodpecker.

This dear little bird sat for his portrait, to the present writer, and sat in a way that rejoiced his heart.

As usual, the class for the smaller Migratory birds was of considerable interest, boasting as it did two Black Redstarts (Mr. Beaty's and Mr. Maxwell's), a Whitethroat (Mr. Otto Puck), a Yellow Wagtail of Mr Maxwell's [this one *is* colour fed I feel sure !] while 1st prize and three specials went to Mr. S. H. May's charming and interesting Grasshopper Warbler. Of the three specimens of this species I have seen during this winter, this one is certainly the best, although perhaps the smallest. The bird was perfectly tame and showed a sleekness and gloss of feather I did not expect to find in so loose feathered a Warbler as this species.



Three British Exhibits at the Palace Show.

1. Two-barred Crossbill exhibited by Mr. W. Lowne
2. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker exhibited by Mrs. Frostick
3. Grasshopper Warbler exhibited by Mr. S. H. Mays.

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

Other Grasshopper Warblers have been seen on the show bench but I never before saw what interested me most, a Two-barred Crossbill. This bird was shown by Messrs. J. & R. Lewis and was, I am informed by Mr. Frostick, who first identified it, caught in the west of Cumberland. In colour it unfortunately did not show the pretty pink tinge of the true wild bird, having we presume, lost it in moulting in captivity.

The class for any other species of British Bird, Insectivorous or graminivorous, resident or migratory, boasted but eight entries, with two Missel Thrushes, and two Redwings (one of them a particularly nice bird) but amongst the remaining four were two Waxwings, a Red backed Shrike (shown by Mr. A. Hoyle at Edinburgh, vide "B.N." Jan. 1910), and our esteemed member, Mr. C. T. Maxwell showed a Great Grey Shrike, rather wild when I looked at it, but in perfect plumage, a charming exhibit

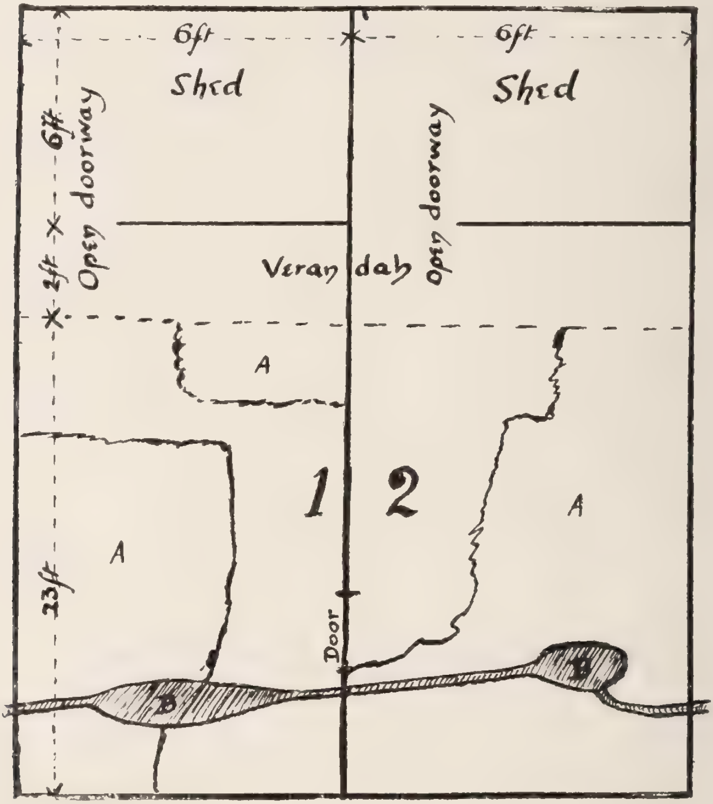
Altogether, the Society that held the show is to be congratulated on its success, and the public spirited exhibitors who give us the chance of seeing their choice and rare specimens are to be thanked, not only by the few Ornithologists who see them, but by the many who admire beautiful birds for their own sake.

My Indian Aviary and its Occupants.

By Lieut. G. Kennedy.

In response to your request per Captain Perreau, I am sending you a few notes of my aviary and birds, which, I fear will prove to be of but little interest. My breeding results have not been great, as my duties call me away for quite long intervals, during which periods there are many annoying happenings.

My out-door aviary consists of a shed, verandah, and flight, with a wire division down the centre. It is well protected on the north and east by the side of the hill, and on the other side by pine trees. The shed is constructed with wood, the roof of same, having an outer covering of zinc ; the standards are wood and the flight is covered with wire netting (half-inch mesh). Wire netting is buried one foot down into the ground and then turned out for one foot, so—L—to keep out rodents. The aviary rests on a rock wall, one foot high—dimensions are given on rough ground plan :—


6ft
6ft
Shed
Shed
Open doorway
Open doorway
6ft
2ft
Verandah
A
A
A
1
2
23ft
Door
B
B

A.A.A. Grassplots ; B.B. Artificial Stream from Tap.
The Sheds are 9ft., and the Flights 8ft. high.

I have in addition a small bird-room about 10ft. square, and a large cage 6ft. x 3ft. x $2\frac{1}{2}$ft. which I keep in my verandah.

THE OCCUPANTS : In my bird-room I have an amusing and interesting pair of Rosy Cockatoos. One pair each Green and Yellow Budgerigars in verandah.

In Aviary No. 1, I have the following :—

1 pair Black-faced Lovebirds
1 „ Mealy Rosella Parrakeets
1 „ Red-rump Parrakeets
1 ♀ Many Coloured Parrakeet
2 pairs Green Budgerigars
1 ♂ and 2 ♀ Madagascar Lovebirds
1 ♂ and 2 ♀ Baya Weavers
1 ♂ Crimson Finch
1 ♂ Red-headed Bunting
1 ♂ Pennant Parrakeet

Aviary No. 2 contains pairs and odd birds as follows :

1 pair Red Rosella Parrakeets
1 „ Cockateels
1 „ Yellow Budgerigars
3 „ Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeets
1 „ Red-whiskered Bulbuls
1 Green Bulbul
2 pair Rain Quails
1 „ Common Quails
1 „ Cutthroats
1 „ Star Finches *(Ruficaudas)*
1 „ Zebra Finches
1 „ Cordon Bleus
5 ♂ and 1 ♀ Paradise Whydahs
1 ♂ Parson Finch
1 pair Saffron Finches
1 ♂ Goldfinch
1 ♀ Bullfinch
2 ♂ Yellow Canaries
1 pair Long-tailed Munias
1 ♀ Pin-tailed Nonpareil
2 pair Three-coloured Munias
1 „ Black-headed Munias
1 „ Grey-headed Munias
1 „ Green Munias (*Avadavats*)
2 „ Spice Birds
2 „ Bengalese
1 „ Bengalese x Striated Finch

I have omitted all birds bred in the aviary.

HAPPENINGS : I will only mention one or two just to indicate that all the world over, in the pursuit of our fascinating hobby, difficulties have to be met and obstructions pushed out of the way, and many annoyances and disappointments endured ; during such periods as we have to leave our birds to the care of others. During one of the absences already alluded to, owing to the lack of skill if not neglect of my servant, several valued birds were lost ! During another such absence, my Mealy Rosellas got into the wrong side of the aviary, with the result that a brood of promising youngsters perished.

Again, one night soon after my return from the first mentioned absence, a snake got into the aviary, killed all my fledgelings and cleared off all the eggs in the aviary in one night. !

In this respect we are all alike, whether in India, the Old Country, or elsewhere, success and failure run side by side, perhaps more of the latter than of the former—however, these and other happenings only help to make our hobby the more fascinating—the very uncertainty of what may happen adds in a measure to its charm.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS: At present I have rather an interesting brood of promising hybrids Bengalese x Striated Finches, which are certainly very flourishing, but only in nestling plumage at present.

The very much mixed series agree together without any serious quarrelling, and though as I said in my opening remarks, breeding successes have not been great, that is, in the sense of anything striking being reared; still, quite a number of young birds of common species have been reared since the aviary was inaugurated.

My Paradise Whydahs are very fine specimens, with grand tails and make a grand display on the wing.

I admire the Black-cheeked Lovebirds greatly, they are to my mind about the most handsome of the Lovebird tribe, though they have not bred with me as yet.

Another great favourite with me is the Green Bulbul *(C. aurifrons)*, and if I were only able to keep one bird, this I think would be my choice. My present specimen is a very good mimic, is very tame, perches on me and takes food from my hand. He has got loose twice, once riding out of the aviary on my shoulder of which I was not aware, but directly I noticed him I went into the aviary again (he remained on my shoulder) and sent him off. The second time my servant let him go, but he came back to me on my return from duty, on my holding up a grasshopper for him. In my opinion as a pet, the Green Bulbul cannot be beaten, and though mine was procured quite cheaply, I would not part with him for any sum anyone liked to offer.

A TALENTED SHAMA: I purchased a ♂ Shama in Calcutta last May, but unfortunately had him stolen about a week later. Besides being so tame that he would perch on my fingers, he could, in addition to his own beautiful song, mimic the following:—

Puppies squealing	Cats fighting
Hens and Chickens	Donkey braying

WILD BIRDS: This is a glorious station (Bakloh, Punjab) for birds; they simply swarm in our gardens. The beautiful Paradise Flycatcher and the bold and fearless Magpie Robin (Dayal Bird) particularly attract attention and notice;

though these are not so noticeable as some others. Yellow-vented Bulbuls are a perfect plague, Red-vented are quite common, and the Black Bulbul is also seen.

The Giant Barbet, figured in *Bird Notes* (March, 1909), comes and eats our fruit every spring, but does not nest in Bakloh.

I fear there will be but little here to interest *B.N.* readers as my experience in aviculture is but limited, still I have had the kind aid of Captain Perreau, who has fine aviaries as well as a fine collection of birds.

[I trust Lieut. Kennedy will send us notes of each species he has bred - failures as well as successes--(also notes and photos if possible of Indian birds). Such would not merely be interesting, but of practical utility, especially as climatic conditions are not so very dis-similar to these of this country. Ed.]

Winter Breeding of Black-cheeked Lovebirds.

(*Agapornis nigrigenis*).

By H. W. Mathias.

I don't know whether it may not be a case of "tempting Providence" to assume on February 4th that the back of the winter is broken, but anyway as I am hopeful we have now seen the worst of the cold weather, I think a few notes on the wintering of my birds, and especially of the Black-cheeked Lovebirds, may be of interest to the readers of "our" magazine.

In my notes which were published in the November issue, I said, speaking about Black-cheeks: "I do not know what disap-"pointment the winter may have in store, since all my birds are kept "in unheated aviaries." I have the satisfaction to announce that deaths have been conspicuous by their absence, and since upon one night last week the thermometer fell in my out-door bird room to 9 deg. of frost (19 deg. in the open air). I think it may be safe to assume that Black Cheeks are perfectly hardy.

[Locality: Stubbington, near Lee-on-Solent. Situation: Much exposed to south-westerly gales of wind which are very frequent.—Ed.]

Their productiveness is little short of amazing. By way of experiment I left one pair (the log-nest pair of my previous article) in their summer aviary. On Monday, January 31, two fully fledged young birds made their appearance in the flight, and I think there are others in the log—at any rate only one adult bird is ever to be seen.

The second adult pair I caged and put in the out-door bird room.—They have two young birds about four weeks old and are at nest again.

I believe there is some considerable doubt in the minds of Foreign Bird Fanciers as to whether Black Cheeks are, or are not hardy—I think my experience may be said to have solved the question satisfactorily.

The frost of last week killed all the young Budgerigars (and they are hardy enough in all conscience), and yet the Black Cheeks kept under practically identical conditions (at any rate the log-nesters are) have been none the worse for the extreme cold.

It may be of interest to note that with the commencement of the winter—i.e. about November—the Black Cheeks have fed almost exclusively on spray millet. They eat just a little white sunflower, but leave canary, white oats, and the smaller seeds untouched.

As regards the other birds in the out-door bird room the cold has had no effect upon them. except for a White Java Hen which died egg-bound. The inmates of this room are, besides numerous Black Cheeked Love Birds and Java Sparrows, two Parrot Finches, and the following Parrakeets: Blue Bonnet, Stanleys, and Pennants. This out-door room was constructed from plans kindly supplied me by Mr. Willford, and has certainly well repaid the cost of its erection.

All the smaller finches I have caged and brought into my study, but had I known in advance how well the out-door bird-room was going to serve me, I should have wintered the whole of my birds in it.

From the experience of this year I should judge that so long as birds have perfectly dry and well ventilated quarters, the cold need not be feared.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from p. 297, Vol. VIII.*)

MUSICAPIDAE.

Melaenornis edolioides BLACK FLYCATCHER.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast; North-east and Equatorial Africa. (*H.L.*)

A wholly black bird about the size of a Lark, which is to be met with throughout the Protectorate just before and during the rains, while a few also certainly remain with us all the year round in some parts of the country, particularly those which are the better wooded and watered. They are rather solitary birds which have all the habits of the common Flycatcher, selecting some favourite perch from which they take short flights after their prey. The only sound I have ever heard them utter is a short low call-note. Their Mandingo name is Séora-Séo.

The following description is that of a specimen shot in November. All dull black except for a greyish wash on the under surface of the wings; the head has just a suggestion of a crest and there are a few rictal bristles. Iris, black; legs and feet, black. Length, 8½ inches.

Bradyornis pallida.

Range. North-east to East Africa. (*H.L.*)

The late Mr. Budgett mentions this bird (a small brown Flycatcher with paler under surface) as common in the Gambia up the river. I do not know it myself.

Muscicapa grisola. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER.

Range. Europe. West and South Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

This bird is common here all the winter months, especially along the river, where his methods and manners are in no way different from those we know so well at home,—here one hopes that the chief article of his diet is the ever-present mosquito.

M. aquatica

Range. Equatorial Africa; Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

Flycatchers like ours, but smaller and with unspotted breasts, and more uniform pale bellies, are common all along the river and its creeks all the year round, where one generally sees them in pairs. These must be *M. aquatica*, which is described as only differing from *M grisola* in having an uniform unstreaked breast. In November, 1905, I saw two young being fed by an old bird, and a few yards away noticed a typical pair of the spotted breasted species; the first must have just nested here, while, I suppose, the other two were recent arrivals from Europe.

M. atricapilla. PIED FLYCATCHER.

Range. Europe; West and North-east Africa in Winter. (*H.L.*)

Specimens have been obtained in the Gambia.

Heliota flavigastra.

Range. Senegambia and North-east Africa (*H.L.*)

Short-tailed, rather squat-looking little birds, about five inches long, whose chief characteristic is the presence of long fluffy white feathers on the rump. The male is black above, except for pure white rump and wing coverts; below pale buff. The female is grey above where the male is black but has the same soft rump-feathers and buff under surface.

Platystira cyanea. COLLARED FLYCATCHER.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Cameroons. *(H.L.)*

The noticeable features of this species are the marked differences between the sexes and the presence in both, at the upper and anterior border of the eye, of a small semi-circular wattle, which in life is a vivid scarlet. The plumage of the male is a glossy blue-black above with a conspicuous bar of white across the wing, while the under surface is white crossed with a broad black breast-band. The female is ashy above, white below with a reddish brown patch covering the throat and breast. The bill and legs are black. These handsome little Flycatchers are not uncommon in the Gambia in the rainy season.

Pachyprora senegalensis. SENEGAL FLYCATCHER.

Range. West Africa; Senegambia to Congo; North-east and East Africa. *(H.L.)*

In certain parts of the country in low bush, pairs or small parties of what I take to be this species are often met with, hunting the branches of the small trees and bushes for insects, and flitting from twig to twig more like Tits than true Flycatchers. They are compactly-built little birds with short tails, comparatively long wings and broad black bills, which are flattened from above downwards, hooked at the tip and surrounded by stiff rictal bristles. As in the preceding species the sexes differ, the prevailing colours in the male being grey, black and white, in the female the same with the addition of a rufous-fawn forehead and chin, and a bright tawny breast. The egs are black, the irides lemon yellow.

Terpsiphone cristata. PARADISE FLYCATCHER.

Range. North-east and Equatorial Africa; West Africa, Senegambia. *(H.L).*

T. erythroptera.

Range. Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

T. rufiventris.

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L*).

T. nigriceps.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. *(H.L.)*

I know two species at least of Paradise Flycatcher in the Gambia, and probably all the four enumerated above do occur here. They are all remarkably handsome and conspicuous birds with crested heads, long, graceful tails, and shining black and coppery-chestnut plumage, which frequent the thick bush along the banks of the river and creeks, and which seem particularly partial, at any rate during the heat of the day, to places where the upper growth and its dense tangle of creepers cuts off the light and keeps the ground below always damp and only covered with such dank unwholesome-looking herbage, as can flourish in the constant gloom. They catch nearly all their food on the wing, watching for it (like the common Flycatcher) from some selected perch, which as often as not is just above the water's edge, as a greater part of their prey seems to consist of water-haunting insects, which one may often see them snatch with a sudden graceful swoop from off the very surface of the water, without so much as wetting even the tips of their long sweeping tails. They are resident with us all the year round, though their numbers are undoubtedly increased by the arrival of others in May to breed here during the rains.

The two species common here differ considerably in size, and are, I think, *cristata* and *rufiventris*, but of this I am not certain, as not only are the distinctions between the different species difficult to follow, but there is also great variation in the same species at different ages and seasons. The best way therefore out of the difficulty is to give a table of the differences between the species taken from the British Museum Catalogue, to which I may add that in the two species I have shot the irides were dark brown.

Key to the Gambian species of *Terpsiphone.*

Tail white with more or less black margins.
    Under surface of body slaty-grey; a metallic gloss on the throat, =*cristata* ♂ (Length 14, tail 10 in.)
Tail, chestnut like the back.
    Under tail-coverts orange or light rufous buff.
        Abdomen orange like the breast.
            Throat glossy black, rest of under surface orange.
                Crest elongated, passing nape and a metallic steel green in colour.
                    =*rufiventris* adult (L.12.8. Tail 8.5).
                Crest velvety, not elongated purplish black.
                    =*nigriceps* adult (L.9.5. Tail 6in.)
        Abdomen grey like the breast.
            Throat glossed and blacker than the breast.
                =*cristata* (immature female).
            Throat uniform with breast, scarcely any gloss.
                =*cristata* (adult female).
        Under tail-coverts white.
            Throat glossy, like the crown.
                Head and neck chestnut like the back.
                    =*erythroptera* (adult male) (Length 15.7 ; tail 12.1 inches)
            Throat grey (quills rufous at ends of inner webs).
                =*erythroptera* (adult female) (Length 7.5 ; tail 4 inches).
    Tail black.
        Under tail coverts grey like the abdomen and chest ; back chestnut ; head and throat glossy black ; secondaries edged with white.
                =*cristata* (immature male) (Length 8.3 ; tail 5 inches).

Elminia longicauda.

Range. West Africa, Gold Coast to Congo *(H.L.)*

Although the range of this species as given in the Hand List does not extend as far north as the Gambia, it (or perhaps another closely allied species) does occur here as a rainy season visitor. I have twice seen blue fantailed birds which must have been *Elminiae*, and Budgett shot two specimens at Koina in the upper river. He describes it as "extremely active and restless, flitting from tree to tree and continually spreading out its tail like a fan."

The following description of this truly lovely bird is from the British Museum Catalogue :—

General colour above verditer blue, brighter and rather more silvery-blue on head ; quills blackish, externally edged with verditer blue, inclining to silvery-blue on the least wing-coverts.....Tail feathers verditer blue, blackish on the inner webs. Sides of face and ears like the crown. Under surface pale ashy-grey with a wash of blue, throat and foreneck verditer blue, centre of abdomen whitish, thighs grey, under wing-coverts and axillaries ashy grey, edge of wing brighter blue. Length 6.4 inches, tail 3.4.

The following note from my diary must, I think, refer to some other species of Flycatcher, which I do not know :— "Tubab Kollon, June 19th, 1907. Saw a pair of birds new to me : Black fantailed birds about the size of a Redstart but with much longer tails ; slightly crested when excited ; colour appeared to be entirely glossy black. They were playing together on the outskirts of clump of dense bush, hunting each other in and out among the branches: they made a very distinct swishing noise (? with their tails) as they flew."

(*To be continued*).

The Longevity of Birds.

By Capt. S. S. Flower, F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

In reference to the interesting editorial paragraph on this subject on page 25 of *Bird Notes* (New Series, No. 1, Vol. 1), of January, 1910, I hope that many members of the Foreign Bird Club will place on record their observations on the ages to which birds live.

Such records would be of much scientific value, and it must also be acknowledged that, next to success in breeding, the length of life in captivity of his or her birds is the principal proof of the successful aviculturist.

Unfortunately, as far as it is accessible to me, the literature on this subject appears to be very meagre, and supposed records of long life are frequently open to criticism. An anonymous writer in "Nature," No. 1996, Vol. lxxvii., page 290, 30th January, says : "We are more likely to be correct in our knowledge of very old human beings than very old animals, but even with regard to human beings the evidence of extreme old age say over 100 years often breaks down when carefully examined. Those in doubt on this point should read T. E. Young 'On Centenarians.' Sometimes the age is accepted because it is on the tombstone, but, as Johnson says, 'In lapidary inscriptions a man is not upon oath.' "

In the case of "pets" these records are often difficult to substantiate with real accuracy. Most people have at times to hand over their pets to the care of relations or servants, who from the best meant motives may replace an animal, which dies under their charge, by another, apparently similar, to avoid hurting the feelings of its owner.

In one case, I personally know of, the substitution was detected by the owner from the fact that the "changeling" (which had been ordered from a London shop) was of a different sub-species to the deceased pet In other cases, where a pet has died in my care and I have produced and OWNED to a substitute, the owners have refused to believe it, taking specific characteristics of appearance or habits as individual peculiarities of their own (former) property.

Those members of the Club who are interested in the subject of the Longevity of Birds will, if they have not already done so, find much information by reading the three undermentioned interesting works :—

1880.—" On the Duration of Life of the Animals in the Zoological Garden at Frankfort-on-the-Main," by Max Schmidt. P.Z.S. 1880, pages 299 to 319.

1892.—" A handbook of the Management of Animals in Captivity in Lower Bengal," by R. B. Sanyal. Published at Calcutta, 1892.

1899.—" On the Comparative Ages to which Birds live," by J. H. Gurney, published in the "Ibis" (seventh series, No. xvii,) for January 1899, pages 19 to 42.

As a small contribution towards our knowledge on this subject I may add a list of thirty one individual Birds that I have had alive in my charge for ten years or more

		Yrs.	mths.	days.	
1.	*Munia oryzivora.* Java Sparrow ...	10	2	29	
2.	*Cacatua galerita.* ♀ Greater Sulphur-crested Cockatoo ...	11	1	27	and still alive.
3.	*Cocatua gymnopis.* Bare-eyed Cockatoo...	11	4	4	,, ,, ,,
4.	*Licmetis nasica.* Slender-billed Cockatoo	11	4	4	,, ,, ,,
5.	,, ,, ,, ,,	11	4	4	,, ,, ,,
6.	*Palæornis torquata.* Ring-necked Parrakeet	11	1	27	,, ,, ,,
7.	*Milvus aegyptius.* Egyptian Kite ...	10	6	0	,, ,, ,,
8.	*Gyps fulvus.* Griffon Vulture. ...	11	4	4	,, ,, ,,
9.	,, ,, ,, ,, ...	11	4	4	,, ,, ,,
10.	*Neophron percnopterus.* Egyptian Vulture.	11	4	4	,, ,, ,,
11.	*Pelecanus onocrotalus.* White Pelican.	10	0	0	
12.	,, ,, ,, ,, ...	11	0	26	and still alive.
13.	,, ,, ,, ,, ...	11	0	26	,, ,, ,,
14.	,, ,, ,, ,, ...	11	0	26	,, ,, ,,
15.	,, ,, ,, ,, ...	11	4	4	,, ,, ,,
16.	,, *rufescens.* Red-backed Pelican. ...	11	2	23	,, ,, ,,
17.	*Ardea purpurea.* Purple Heron. ...	10	4	0	,, ,, ,,

		Y'rs.	m'ths.	days.	
18.	*Ciconia alba.* White Stork. ...	10	6	3	and still alive
19.	„ „ „ „ ...	10	6	3	„ „ „
20.	*Cairina moschata.* Muscovy Duck. ...	10	8	0	„ „ „
21.	„ „ „ „ ...	10	8	0	„ „ „
22.	*Chenalopex aegyptiacus.* ♂ Egyptian Goose	11	4	4	„ „ „
23.	*Thaumalea amherstiae.* ♀ Lady Amherst's Pheasant.* ...	11	4	4	„ „ „
24.	*Euplocamus nycthemerus.* ♂ Silver Pheasent	11	4	4	„ „ „
25.	*Paro cristatus* ♀ Crested Peafowl ...	10	8	9	„ „ „
26.	*Grus virgo.* Demoiselle Crane ...	10	3	10	„ „ „
27.	„ „ „ „ ...	10	10	14	„ „ „
28.	*Larus fuscus.* Lesser Black-backed Gull	11	2	29	„ „ „
29.	„ „ „ „ „	11	2	29	„ „ „
30.	*Struhio camelus.* ♂ Sudan Ostrich ...	11	4	4	„ „ „
31.	„ „ ♀ „ „ ...	11	4	4	„ „ „

Editorial.

A Cowbird's Nursery: In "Bird Lore" (July—August, 1909) is an interesting paper from the pen of C. G. Abbot, which is of such interest regarding a parasitical species that I am quoting it almost *in extenso*; it also introduces to us another species which is practically unknown to English aviculture, viz., the Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) :—

> "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise and, to judge by the serenity of her expression, the little Chestnut-sided Warbler in our picture† has not the least suspicion that the three eggs which she is brooding so happily are not all of her own laying. Who knows but that it may even be to her a source of pride that two of them are considerably larger than the third, giving promise as they do of babies twice as lusty as those of her neighbours!"
>
> "As a matter of fact it is the lazy Cowbird. When the rightful owner of the nest has been absent, no less than two eggs of this shiftless vagrant have been imposed upon her for incubation and care. Whether both were laid by the same bird I could not of course determine, but the fact that the eggs were quite differently marked would indicate perhaps that two Cowbirds had visited the nest."
>
> "As a general thing, I have no hesitation in destroying every Cowbird's egg I find. For although the Cowbird in itself is a harmless bird, its advent into the world seems to be attended by the sacrifice of other

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* Assumed male plumage in 1906.

† The article is illustrated by five excellently reproduced photos.

"birds at least as harmless and usually more attractive......Had I removed "both the Cowbird's eggs, the bird would almost certainly have deserted "her home. So, as the nest was in a convenient situation for observation "—in a bush alongside a path, and close to the house where I was staying "—and as I was curious to watch happenings in the little cradle when the "heterogeneous family should be born, I left the eggs untouched."

"The nest was found at Rhimebeck, N.Y., on July 6th, 1900, incubation having just started. Four days later I discovered that one of the "Cowbird's eggs was infertile ; so I removed it......disappointed that I "should not, after all, enjoy the somewhat unique experience of observing "two young Cowbirds growing up in the same nest. It was sometime during the night of July 13–14 that the Cowbird's egg hatched—the "Warblers hatched between 12 and 12-30 on the 14th. The nicety with "which matters had been so arranged that the young Cowbird would have "just a convenient start in life over its unfortunate rival commanded at "least my admiration if not my sympathy. Cowbirds must indeed be "sharp nest finders to be able to discover at short notice not only the nests "of suitable kinds of birds, but even nests containing eggs at a certain "stage of incubation !"

The above interesting details I have given practically *in extenso.* It certainly was regrettable that one egg was infertile, as interesting data were thereby lost—would both Cowbirds have preceded the Warbler ? Most certainly in such case the Warbler must have been crushed out of existence at once, the nest being utterly inadequate for the purpose ; one of the photos illustrating the article shows the sides of the nest distended with the partially fledged Cowbird ; causing one to deduce that the two Cowbirds could not have been reared therein—this, however, can only be supposition, as many species exhibit ingenuity, amounting almost to reason, in meeting domestic difficulties.

"After the hatching of the eggs I spent considerable time at the "nest-side, and observed with interest the many pretty little incidents of a "bird's domestic life—the constant and tender brooding by both Warblers "in turn ; the never-ceasing search among the neighbouring trees and "bushes for small caterpillars ; the delivery of the food by the male to the "brooding female, who in turn would raise herself and pass it to the "young ; the careful cleansing of the nest ; and many other intimate details "of the birds' loving and happy lives."

"When I drew aside the leaves that sheltered the nest and allowed "the sun to shine upon it for the purposes of photography, the mother, "realizing with that wonderful instinct common to all birds which nest in "the shade, the fatal effect on her babies of the sun's rays, would take her "stand on the edge of the nest and with outstretched wings would form of "her own body a living shield for the comfort and protection of her young "......As the young birds began to grow, the Cowbird not only maintained

> "but rapidly increased its lead over its small nest mate. At every visit of "the parent bird with food, its capacious gullet could be seen violently "waving aloft and almost completely hiding the feeble little mouth of the "Warbler, whose owner was doing its best in a dumb appeal for food...... "However, the young Warbler did manage to get an occasional portion, "and I had strong hopes that it might reach maturity.........I photographed "the birds on July 18th, at 3-30 p.m., that was the last I saw of the poor "little Warbler.........at 5 p.m. the Cowbird was in sole and triumphant "possession of the nest."

The writer could not trace what had become of the Warbler, but draws the conclusion, that it became more feeble and was crushed to death by the Cowbird's gross body, and that the parents carried the corpse some distance—a most careful search over a large area beneath the nest failed to reveal any sign of the missing bird. It would thus appear that it had neither fallen from the nest nor been ejected by the Cowbird.

> "The Cowbird now had things all his own way, and there being no "one to dispute his right to all the food, he grew with amazing rapidity. "The dainty little cup of a nest, never built to accommodate such a monster, was soon completely forced out of shape. His body then protruded "beyond the lower rim of the nest and the ground underneath became "littered with droppings, quite baffling the cleanly, sanitary instincts of "the Warblers."

The above interesting notes supply much food for thought and should prove of much assistance to some of our members, more than one of whom, are going to make the attempt to breed some species of Cowbird during the coming season......It would appear that in a state of nature, a species smaller than itself is usually chosen as a foster parent for its young; this appears to be the case with many parasitical species.

The Californian Woodpecker: From a piece of stray paper, from what periodical or date I do not know, the following extract will doubtless interest many :—

> "While mining in the Sierra range of California, a correspondent "had a favourable opportunity to observe the peculiar habits of the Californian Woodpecker with regard to storing his future supply of food "where it will be safe against the destructive effects of the elements and "the depredations of other animals. Early in the Autumn of 1850 he "noticed a Red-headed Woodpecker busy from daylight to dark digging "holes in the bark of a pine-tree near his cabin. At his first leisure he "visited the tree, expecting to find the bark infested with worms; to his "surprise however, he found it studded with acorns, but they were not "protruding from the holes. The holes ran in regular lines round the "tree, beginning about four feet above the roots and extending to the

"height of fifteen feet. The holes were dug with mathematical precision. "The acorns were driven in large end foremost, and the fit was so exact "that no agency could remove them without cutting away the bark. No "miser worked more incessantly or hoarded with greater care. When the "rain confined the writer and his companions to their cabins, the bird continued at his work, laying up his treasures with persistent industry. As "soon as he pecked out a hole, he flew to an oak and selected an acorn, "sometimes from the ground, at others from the tree, to fill the place ; and "so perfect was his idea of size that the writer never saw him get one "too large to go in, or so small that he did not have to hammer it to its "place. The incident would be incomplete without giving the sad part of "it. The persistence of the woodpecker's character would otherwise "never have been known. Wishing to reload his rifle preparatory to a deer-"hunt, the correspondent stepped out of his cabin to discharge it. The "bird, as he laboured on the side of his tree, made a tempting mark, but "too distant, it was thought, to be in danger ; it proved otherwise however. "The writer walked sadly down to the tree and picked up the bird's re-"mains, and, to his surprise, he found that he had worn down his upper "bill to the raw flesh."

Club Meetings: An experimental meeting was held at the Crystal Palace, though of course it was under the circumstances of a somewhat informal character, nevertheless it was successful, and will be, I trust, the precursor, of many larger gatherings in the future. Eighteen sat down to tea including members from the far north as well as others from the sunny south. After tea an interchange of opinion took place on matters of club interest—notably club meetings, and conditions of cup competitions, the latter was referred to the next Council Meeting. As to the former, two experimental meetings were arranged to take place on the third Wednesday in April and the first Saturday in May, the rendezvous being the Small Bird House at the Zoo, time 2-30 p.m. on each occasion ; the idea being to make a round of the birds, with exchanges of experience, and any topic of interest arising on the occasion. It was also hoped that the idea might be extended and that at such times as anything special occurred, calculated to draw members together from a distance to a given locality, that a meeting be arranged. The newly formed Social Committee will arrange for such gatherings as opportunity occurs. A series of meetings in different parts of the country to visit large aviaries and rare collections of birds, should not merely be pleasant and interesting, but should tend to the welfare and growth of the club, and also educative at any rate to the extent of an enlarged avicultural experience.

Nesting Notes: These are commencing early this season, my esteemed friend and fellow member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker leads the way in this respect. Through the wretched weather of last January his Argoondah Quails patiently attended to the duties of incubation and on the 31st ult., six young Argoondahs were duly hatched--the first Argoondahs to be born in this country I believe—one escaped through the netting and was lost, the others are still alive, but that they will be fully reared is rather doubtful, as some little time was lost in finding a suitable food for them, the ordinary diet being refused. It is not easy to rear hardy chickens in mid-winter, let alone small quails, so that complete success is doubtful. The above is extracted from a private letter.

Green Bulbuls: It will be remembered that from a note published in Vol. VIII., Mr. Teschemaker announced* he had a true pair of Malabar Green Bulbuls. These now prove to be the ordinary Gold-fronted (*C. aurifrons.*) I draw attention to this fact, as it distinctly points to the fact that young Gold-fronts do not get the blue throat at *the first moult*, but that it is very probably a colour growth not evident till some months later, or till the next moult—I do not think this point has been previously noted, viz., that young male *aurifrons*, *have the centre of the throat black*, for some months after assuming the black areas on the throat and sides of neck and that the blue on the centre of the throat does not appear till some time later. Both Captain Perreau and myself were led astray by this fact into thinking I had a genuine rarity—viz., a true Malabar. Mr. Teschemaker has been misled by the same feature and I have also come across other cases, so that I think we may conclude that this feature is constant and that all young male Gold-fronts have the centre of the throat black for some time after sheding the nestling plumage, which is mostly green; in the case of my specimen the blue on the centre of throat did not appear for nearly a year, and for the whole of that period I was under the impression that I had a true Malabar Green Bulbul. Possibly either Messrs. Dewar, Donald, Capt. Perreau (or some other member at present in India), will make some observations as regards this feature, and ascertain whether it is constant with wild birds and also if possible fix at about what age the blue on the throat first appears, and whether by a direct moult or colour growth.

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* Or I did, quoting from a private letter.

BRITISH BIRDS.

The Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa grisola*).

By R. Suggitt.

The Spotted Flycatcher is one of the most noticeable of our summer visitors, and it may be found in almost every orchard or garden, making swoops from its favourite perch after flies and other insects. It is one of the latest of our summer arrivals. It is seldom seen in our northern counties before the middle of May, and, it is at least a month later before the eggs are to be found.

The nest is usually built of fine hay and small roots, interwoven with spiders' webs and lined with hay. It is situated on the lower fork of a fruit tree, on the top of a sheltered fence post, or sometimes in ivy growing on the wall of a house. I have found the nest in all these situations in my garden, at Cleethorpes, where two or three pairs rear their young every summer. Years ago I took a nest from the fork of a large tree, at least 25 feet from the ground. The eggs vary a little in colour, but bear a general resemblance to those of the Robin, except that they are a little smaller and not so round. The usual clutch is five.

The Spotted Flycatcher is a very shy sitter and glides from the nest whenever an intruder approaches to within thirty feet of its domicile. No interference with the nest is tolerated, the parents forsaking nearly fully fledged young if the latter be handled too freely. The fledgelings are the most nervous young birds that I am acquainted with and cower at the bottom of the nest, terrified if one peers at them. At other times this bird is bold and fairly confiding.

They have no song and their voices are seldom heard until the young have left the nest, when the call "it-chick" may be heard in all directions.

Their food consists of insects. Upper plumage, greyish-brown streaked with darker-brown on the head ; wings and tail, dark-brown ; sides of face and ear coverts, dark brown ; under surface, greyish-white tinged with pale brown on the breast and sides, and faintly streaked with brown on the flanks ; bill, brown ; feet, black.

This species has little to recommend it as a cage bird. It readily takes to cage life, is easy to cater for and becomes fairly tame, but this only partly compensates for its sombre colouring and lack of song, in birdrooms where the space is limited and is easily filled with rarer and more beautiful species.

I have caught and meated off a few specimens: they have thriven on the ordinary soft food with gentles and other live food, but I could never induce them to partake of any kind of fruit, although they are said to partly feed on berries in the autumn.

Correspondence.

ORIOLES AND VIRGINIAN CARDINALS.

SIR,—Can any member tell me if Orioles and Virginian Cardinals will agree together in an aviary?

(HON.) M. C. HAWKE.

THE LONGEVITY OF CAPTIVE BIRDS.

SIR.—I think it may interest members to hear that I have kept a Zosterop in perfect condition for over seven years. One winter was spent in an unheated, but sheltered aviary: it was driven into the shed at night and shut up. Other years when the weather really became cold, it was brought in and caged with Gouldian, Parrot Finches, and Waxbills, in a large cage (3ft. by 2¼ft), which was kept in the dining-room.

His diet was very varied, as he often got a bit of pudding at lunch time—custard, rice, stewed prunes, &c.,—the usual soft food, crushed hemp and fruit.

When he had been in my possession about two years, I picked him up in an apparently dying condition, in a fit: I soused him in cold water and he recovered.

This autumn he looked rather mopey and I brought him indoors, putting his cage in a hot kitchen—but he only lived about six weeks, dying after a series of fits.

I have written of this charming little bird as "he," but I do not know the sex. As it never sang, very probably it was a hen, —I wish I could obtain more, they are most charming birds.

(HON.) M. C. HAWKE

SIR.—I enclose you a cutting which will probably interest many members and may also call forth other interesting records of a similar character.

"Mr. H. Chandler, of Arundel-street, Landport, writes:—I read in "the "Evening News" the achievement of Mr. Smith's parrot, which has "laid four eggs since last October. My parrot is able to beat this record; "it is a West African grey, and is probably about 18 years of age. I have "had it 15 years, and it is a good talker. To my surprise, on November "7th, 1908, it laid an egg, then one on each of the following dates in 1908 "November 25th, 29th, December 5th; and on February 2nd, 14th, 17th, "and 21st, 1909. I should be glad if anyone can inform me whether these "birds are ever bred in captivity, and the age at which they usually commence to lay."

H. W. MATHIAS.

Notes from Far and Near.

The Shining Cuckoo.—Our esteemed member, Mr. F. Howe, kindly sends me a cutting from the "New Zealand Herald," by Mr. J. Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S., from which I have compiled the following:

As the result of an appeal for observation as to the habits of this species, twenty letters were received, and also other brief notes, recording arrivals at different places were made—from this evidence it was shown that October and November were the months in which these migrants arrive, though some few come in Augnst and others in September, while isolated individuals remain all the year round.

"Most of the romance of the Shining Cuckoo is bound up in its "departure from the beautiful tropical islands of the Pacific, its perilous "continuous flight the longest on record when it journeys over 1000 miles "of sea, its arrival here in the sentimental months, its love and courtship, "and, finally, the amazing determination of the most unnatural mother to "abjure the maternal affection that is common to the female sex in all "classes of the animal kingdom. Apart from these considerations, the "Shining Cuckoo has many charms. It has fine manners, a peculiar and "handsome plumage, which gives it a very distinguished appearance, and "strong, liquid, silvery, and sustained notes. Correspondents who made "records last year have remarked that the notes are not so jubilant when "the cuckoo first arrives as they are later on, when its "fancy lightly turns "to thoughts of love." This is accounted for by the theory that the first "arrivals are males. They are probably stronger on the wing and fly "quicker. Many of them are companionless for a time after arrival, and "they do not put all their souls into their songs until their mates are "present to admire their efforts. It is recorded in regard to the Pallid "Cuckoo of Australia, indeed, that the principal body of migrants are "preceded by forerunners, who are absolutely silent. Mr. James Anderson, "keeper of the Kahurangi Point lighthouse, at Collingwood, Nelson, has

“observed this peculiarity. “The Shining Cuckoo,” he says “made its
“first appearance here this season, 1908, on October 6. For a week there
“seemed to be only one. The long flight, apparently, had put its vocal
“notes out of tune, as its whistle was not as prolonged as usual. On
“October 13 I saw three Shining Cuckoos in a young rata tree. One was
“sitting with its wings spread ; the others were chasing each other through
“the branches. Now, November 1st, you can hear them whistling all day
“long. It would be easier to guess the number of peas in a bottle than
“the number of Shining Cuckoos at this place. Their whistle is more
“noticeable than the notes of any other bird. If all the bushy parts of
“New Zealand have as many of these visitors as there are here, their
“migration must be a very big thing indeed.”

Another observer states :—“For the first few days following its arrival the Shining Cuckoo is very quiet and retiring, its silvery note, which later becomes so loud and distinct, is but seldom heard, and then nearly always in the night ; thus does it usually herald its arrival. The best representation of its notes are as follows :—“Kui, kui, kui, whitiwhiti ora.” Maori orators quote it as an ornament of speech, conveying best wishes for good fortune, prosperity, and all happiness.

W.T.P.

Month's Arrivals.

A Consignment of North American Birds for the Zoo.—North American species are of special interest, for since prohibition of the importation of American species, practically the exchanges between the London and New York Zoos are the only means we have of keeping up our acquaintance with the avifauna of the U.S.A., save for these species whose range extends to the South American Continent, from whence a limited number leak through at not very frequent intervals. I am unable to describe these before going to press, but will refer to them again in our next issue. They consist of the following :

10 American Goldfinches.
3 Pine Siskins.
6 Red-shouldered Starlings.
2 Common Cowbirds.
5 Blue Birds.
7 Catbirds.

Another recent arrival is an Australian Mallee Bird. W.T.P.

Private Importations.—Mr. Sutcliffe left Jamaica at the end of December en route for Demerara, where he hopes to make some captures. The ship called at Colon, Panama, Carthagena, and Savanilla. At the last two ports he could not discover any birds ; at Panama he secured a pair of Egrets, a Yellow Hangnest, and 13 small birds. The Egrets, Hangnest, a Colombian Siskin ♂, Blue-Sugar Bird ♀, and two pairs of Tanagers arrived alive. On Thursday morning, January 27th, they left Southampton at 12-30 noon ; reaching Sheffield at 8-38 p.m., leaving there at 3 a.m., and arriving here at 6 a.m. on Friday morning. I received news of their dispatch and arranged to meet the train ; it was bitterly cold, with 29 degrees of frost (on the grass), and I should not have been surprised if they had all been dead.

The Tanagers were a pair of *Euphonia minuta*, dainty little creatures, smaller than our Gold Crests, olive-green and yellow. The others are similarly coloured and evidently of the same genus. The cock has a very bright yellow breast, shining olive green back, yellow frontal band ; it much resembles the Violet Tanager in build. R.S.

Recently, at Mr. Luer's, I had the opportunity of seeing what I took to be a pair of Black-headed Hangnests,* they were in such fine condition and all evidently adult, that one was able to compare them somewhat minutely as to colour areas, etc. They were silky black with a yellow patch on the primaries about the size of a sixpence, and the root of tail and ventral region also yellow. The colour areas appeared to be about equal in intensity. In the bird which I took to be the hen, the black areas lacked both silkiness, depth, and purity. In all other respects they appeared to be similar.

There were also in the same consignment some young Scarlet Tanagers, and as these were the first I had seen I took the opportunity of carefully examining the plumage. Those in nestling plumage were earthy brown on wings and tail, and the body feathers were rufous brown, which on the breast were slightly spotted, similarly to a young Robin though not so distinct. One specimen was just commencing to change to adult plumage. The first scarlet feathers to show themselves were at the base of the beak and the root of the tail, which gave the bird a rather striking appearance.

Several pairs of Golden Crowned Conures have also come to hand during the month, as well as the ever welcome Golden-fronted Green Bulbul *(C. aurifrons*). One would like to see more of these imported,

W. T. R.

Mr. Jamrach, the well known naturalist, has recently been offering pairs of the following :—

Golden-shouldered Parrakeet (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*).

Brown's Parrakeets (*Platycercus brownii*).

Red-collared Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*).

All the above are uncommon species, and would adorn any collection, and though costly will doubtless find ready purchasers. One species, the Red-collared Lorikeets, is quite hardy, a pair have occupied quite a small out-door flight attached to my garden aviary, exposed to all weathers, for two and a half years, and are to-day (February 2nd) in faultless condition

W. T. P.

I have just seen (February 9th) a wonderful consignment of Australian Finches, etc., imported by De Von & Willson, Ltd.,† consisting of some 3,500 pairs of Painted, Grass, Gouldian, Bicheno, Crimson, Masked, Parson, and other Finches. All were in wonderful condition, also 2 pairs of Purple-crowned Lorikeets, at least that's what they are said to be; they are quite new to me. They have a small orange patch on cheek, golden-front, viz., above beak shading at sides into crimson; purple patch on crown; body colour green, size a little larger than the common Love-birds.

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* Probably *Icterus coronatus.*—Ed.

† A large consignment has come to hand, brought over by Mr. Wallace, formerly a partner in the firm of Messrs. Payne and Wallace, of which the above is probably a part —W.T.P.

Also a single specimen of White-winged Dove, body colour speckled golden-brown, with grey stripes on face; wings very large and carried low down, colour as body, with large patch of white on the under surface of primaries; legs very short, giving the bird the appearance of squatting when really it is standing.

The *Emblema picta*'s were a wonderful lot, simply perfect specimens The above hurried note may prove of interest.—W.T.R.

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when they are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

Red-headed Gouldian Finch (W. Edmunds). Cause of death, pneumonia. A great number of these birds just imported are dying off.

Gouldian Finch: Young cock (Dr. J. Easton Scott). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Amethyst Starling and two Gouldian Finches (Wm. Shore Baily). Cause of death in each instance was pneumonia.

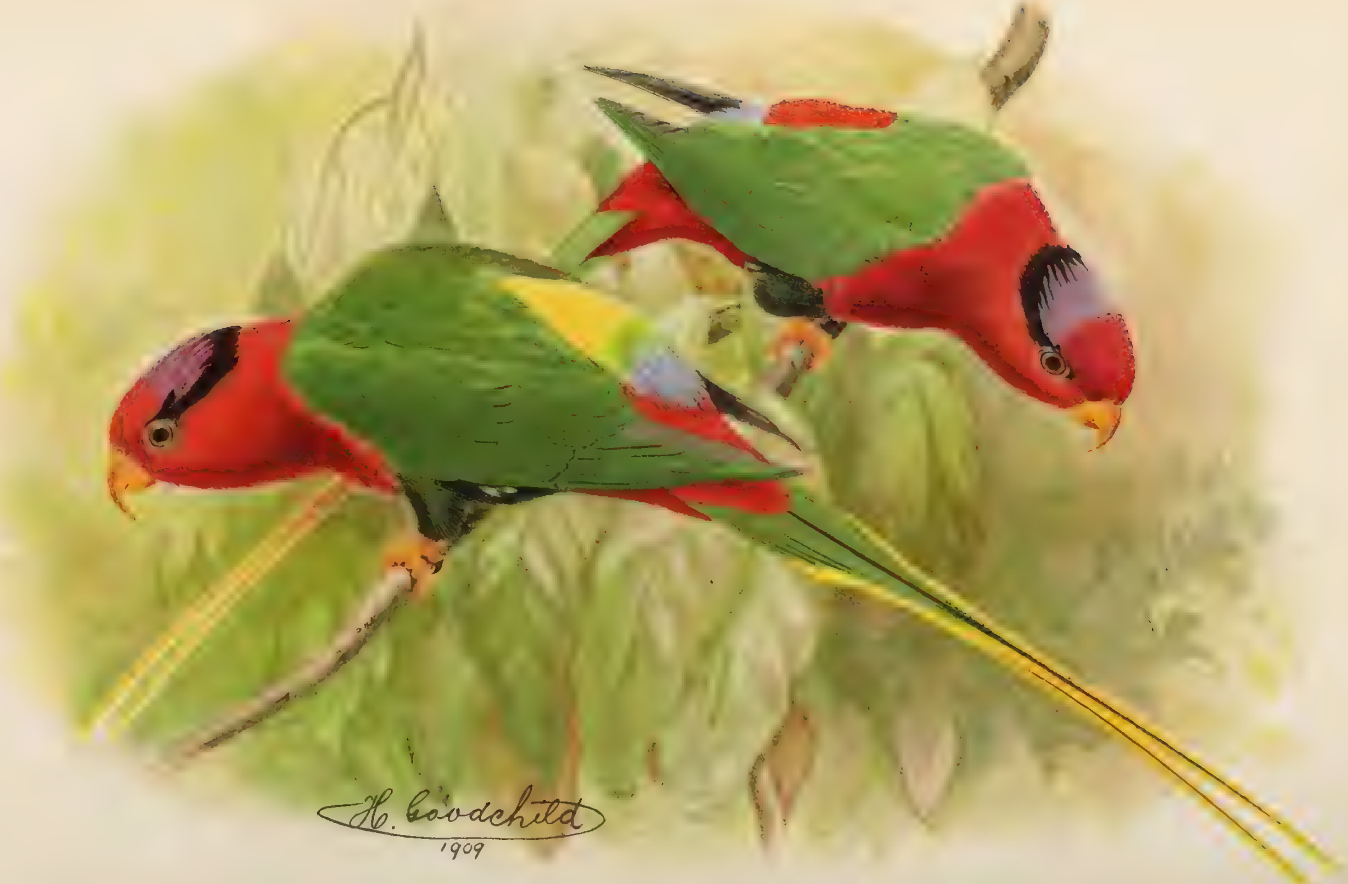
Cock Seed-eater (The Hon. M. C. Hawke). Your bird had a fatty liver and no doubt died in a fit. The cranium was very much congested.

Red-rump Parrakeet (Mrs. B. Croysdale). The cause of death was no doubt due to congestion of the brain.

Cock Violet Tanager (Lady K. Pilkington). Cause of death, fatty degeneration of the liver.

Answered by post: E. J. Brooks, Esq., H. Willford, Esq., Mrs. B. W. Hodgkins, and T. N. Wilson.

Harry Gray, M.R.C.V.S.


H. Goodchild
1909

STELLA LORIES.
(Charmosyna stellæ)

Huth lith et imp.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Stella Lory.

(Charmosyna stellæ).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.O.U.

I much regret that the article to accompany Mr. Goodchild's exquisite plate is not from the pen of those who have kept this species, as in consequence it must be a compilation, with perhaps the one saving feature that so far as I speak personally as to its demeanour, it is from my observation of the bird exhibited by Mr. Millsum* at the recent L.P.O.S. Show, which came from Mr. Brook's series of this magnificent species, and that I have two or three of Mr. Brook's letters to draw upon. So far as I know only two English aviculturists have possessed this species, viz., our esteemed member Mr. E. J. Brook and Mrs. Johnstone.

No eulogy of mine is needed, with the exquisite plate before us, but beautiful and life-like as Mr. Goodchild's drawing is (those who have seen the living bird will fully appreciate this), it does not, cannot, do justice to the glowing living beauty of this indescribable species—a stray sentence from one of Mr. Brook's letters, received in 1908, faintly indicates this ; he writes : " My group of Stella Lories makes a grand display of colour "—since I have seen the living bird, that short sentence is pregnant with new meaning to me, and in imagination I see them disporting themselves beneath a summer's sun, with a brilliance that even imagination cannot reach, and neither pen describe nor brush depict.

This beautiful genus contains but three species, the following key to which I quote from the Brit. Mus. Cat., Vol. xx :

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*Mr. Millsum will have the sympathy of all members in his great loss. The draughts at the Palace proving too much for his beautiful exhibit —it succumbed thereto on the morning following its return from the show.

KEY TO THE SPECIES.

I. Middle tail-feathers green at the base.
  (a) A patch of yellow on the sides of the breast....................*papuensis*
  (b) No yellow patch on the sides of the breast...........................*stella*
II. Middle tail feathers, red, with no green at the base...............*josephinæ*

DESCRIPTION : Adult male. The principal body colouring is glowing carmine of a very rich and intense hue, with a patch of blue and dull purple on the rumps ; back and wings dark grass-green : on the hind crown is a patch of lilac-purple feathers, which are thrown into beautiful relief by the black nape ; lower breast, sides of abdomen and flanks, purplish-black ; the flanks are relieved with a few white streaks, margined with blue (common to both sexes), middle of abdomen, underside of wings, and under tail-coverts, intense crimson ; tail dark green, with the two middle feathers passing into orange and toning down to yellow at the tips, the outer tail feathers have yellow tips and the bases of inner webs, crimson ; bill, red ; legs and feet, orange. Total length, 15½ inches ; the two central tail feathers, 10¼ inches long.

ADULT FEMALE : Fully as brilliant as the male, but is easily distinguished from her mate by her brilliant yellow lower back, she also has a green band across the rump ; otherwise as the male.

YOUNG MALE : The crimson feathers of the neck and breast are margined with purplish ; abdomen and thighs, green and blue ; back, yellow ; more or less suffused with red. One or more of Mr. Brook's birds arrived in this interesting stage.

HAB : New Guinea. A brief allusion to this species will be found in an article by Mr. W. Goodfellow (who imported this species, first for Mrs. Johnstone, and afterwards for Mr. Brook), "Some Further Notes on the Black-winged Lory," in *Bird Notes*, Vol, viii, ante page 207.

ARRIVAL IN GREAT BRITAIN : Mr. Brook informs me that in 1907 Mr. Goodfellow collected and brought home some of this species for Mrs. Johnstone, and in 1908 others for Mr Brook. The latter gentleman has four true pairs, all mated.

THEIR DEMEANOUR IN CAPTIVITY : I had better first quote Mr. Brook's short notes and then make a few deductions and comparisons therefrom.

"Their deportment is much the same as the Red-collared "Lorrikeet (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*), full of life and fun."

"Their voice is not disagreeable, it is shrill, but not pierc-" "ing. One or two of the cocks make a noise just like the bleating" "of a lamb; this may be acquired, but I think it is natural."

"The birds proceed by jumps or bounds, whether on the" "ground or on horizontal perch."

"I find these birds as hardy as most other Lories."

"They are an accommodating species, as several pairs will" "live together in the same aviary, where they make a grand" "show."

DIET: "I have already said on more than one occasion how I feed my Lories, and have nothing to add thereto." Vide *Bird Notes*, Vols. vii viii.

Nevertheless, I think for the benefit of new readers,, I had better quote same: Mr. Brook's method is very simple—sweetened milk and barley-water made into sop with "B.C." Food and his extensive and rare series of Lories and Lorikeets have thriven thereon.

GENERAL REMARKS: From Mr. Brook's remarks as to the similarity of the demeanour of this species to the Red-collared Lorikeet, it is not difficult to draw a mental picture of these glorious birds disporting themselves in the Hoddom Castle Aviaries: especially as a pair of Red-collars have occupied one of my aviaries for the past two or more years. First then, if the comparison is to be complete, they are ridiculously tame, simply crawling over you, whenever you are in their enclosure; the vivacity and activity of the Red-collars is almost ceaseless, very active on the wing and "larking" about with each other the live-long day. The Red-collar is a species to feast the eyes upon, on a bright summer's day, what, then must a group of Stellas be? Then again, they are most grotesque on the ground and large branches, proceeding as they do by hops and bounds, have no idea whatever of running or walking and their method of progression is very ludicrous to those observing it for the first time. However, there is one point upon which Stellas differ materially from the Red-collars (at least the comparison only applies as to deportment), viz., the long flexible central tail-feathers (over ten inches), these are quite flexible and sway at the will of the breeze; yet while closely observing the specimen, exhibited by Mr. Millsum at the Crystal Palace show, it appeared to me that the bird had some control over these flexible feathers; as the bird certainly did curl the feathers up in a vertical direction, and also outwardly in lateral curves; it would be interesting to know to what extent this is carried on, i.e., is it merely a casual practice or a regular habit?

I certainly hope Mr. W. Goodfellow will later supplement these notes, with some details of their demeanour and characteristics in their native wilds.

In conclusion: I had better quote the description of the other two species of this genus, so that if any individuals leak through, members may be able to recognise them.

C. papuensis. PAPOUAN LORY.

"ADULT MALE: Carmine; back and wings, dark green; vertex with "a blue cross band and another behind; a black band also on the nape; "rump, red on the sides, blue along the middle; the long upper tail coverts "green; sides of the breast and flanks, yellow; middle of the abdomen and "thighs black; under wing coverts, red; quills black underneath; middle "tail-feathers, dark green, yellowish-red towards the tip; lateral tail-feathers, "yellow at the tip, red at the base of the inner web, and green at the outer "edge; bill, orange-red; feet, orange; iris, yellow. Hab. N.W. New Guinea." (B.M.C., Vol. xx).

C. josephinæ.

"ADULT MALE: Carmine; back and wings, green; on the occiput a "large spot dark purple-blue, becoming black lower down; a spot on the "middle of the upper tail-coverts, dull blue; middle of the abdomen and "thighs, purple-black; above the thighs some yellow streaks; tail-feathers "red, with the tip yellow, the lateral ones more or less dull green in the "middle; bill, red; feet iris, orange. Hab. N.W. New Guinea." (B.M.C. Vol. xx).

Turtle x Barbary Hybrid Doves.

BY T. H. NEWMAN, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

In *Bird Notes*, for November, 1909, there is a letter from the Rev. J. M. Paterson, recording the fact of the fertility of a Turtle and Barbary hybrid, and our Editor asked me to supply a few notes on this subject. I regret that absence from home has prevented me looking up my notes before now.

I have had in all six specimens of this particular cross, though I did not breed any of them myself, I believe they were all bred from male common Turtle doves (*Turtur turtus*), and Barbary-dove hens (*T. risorius*) and were the produce of three different pairs of birds.

I procured my first bird in March, 1901, it was a cock, and mated the following June to a Barbary hen. Five young were hatched from three nests, though only two became adult, a cock and a hen. I afterwards reared young from this young cock bird, and his descendants have hatched young, I believe every year since. The young hen was mated for some years but never even laid an egg, being one of the few examples of perfect barrenness that I have met with among hybrid doves.

In January 1904, I got two more Turtle x Barbary hybrids. One developed an over-grown bill and was never mated. The other paired, in July, 1905, with a ¼ Necklace x ¾ Barbary female. They were together for nearly a year, sixteen eggs were laid but none were fertile. I separated them 18th June, 1906, and a week later the cock mated to a hen Turtle x Barbary with whom he has been ever since. Innumerable eggs have been laid, but none have ever shown any signs of being fertile. This pair make most excellent foster parents, they have reared such different birds as Domestic Pigeon, Brush Bronze-wing, Deceptive Doves and Aurita Doves.

The last three Turtle x Barbary hybrids reached me in September, 1905, they consisted of one male and two females. They were not such fine birds nor so distinctly marked as the two I obtained in 1904. A pair of these birds mated together in February, 1906, they remained mated for about fourteen months, many eggs were laid, but none were fertile. I then gave the hen away and she was mated to a Barbary cock, again no eggs were fertile. In March, 1907, the cock hybrid mated with a rather small Half-collared Turtle hen (*T. semitorquatus*). In the first nest one egg was fertile but did not hatch, then followed eight eggs (*four nests*) all unfertile, and in August two more eggs were laid, one being again unfertile, but the other hatched and was reared. It has proved to be a hen, in colour she is very light being much more of the colour of a Barbary Dove than her father, but she greatly resembles a Half-collared Dove in shape. There is a distinct ashy shade on the crown and the eye is surrounded with some dull red skin: she has mated to a Deceptive x Barbary hybrid cock, and lays rather small very round eggs, quite unlike either those of the Half-collared or Barbary Dove, I have none of the Common Turtle (her only other ancestor) by me for comparison. I have not kept a record of the number of eggs she has laid, but last summer this pair hatched a young one, a truly remarkable hybrid: it was not however reared.

In 1908, the Turtle x Barbary male and his Half-collared mate reared a pair of young ones from the same nest, a cock and hen; the former is a very dark bird and at first sight looks almost exactly like a small Half-collared Dove; the latter is just like her elder sister. These two birds have not yet been mated, but I think this second hen has also laid.

The second hen, Turtle x Barbary received in 1905, was mated during the first half of 1906, to a hybrid Pigeon x Barbary cock, naturally no result followed, except unfertile eggs; at this time this pair of birds used often to have entire liberty and always returned to a small aviary where they lived. I was obliged to discontinue this, however, on account of cats. This is the hen which is mentioned above as now being mated to a cock of the same cross received in 1904.

From the above experiments I have come to the conclusion that while the male Turtle x Barbary hybrid is a perfectly fertile bird, being very little, if any, inferior in this respect to a pure bred bird, the female on the other hand, through a prolific layer of long eggs, does not appear capable of producing fertile ones.

This particular cross is of common occurrence, being often produced when an odd Turtle Dove is kept among Barbary Doves, I even recently saw one in Algiers, and in "British Birds" for November, 1907, we read of a wild bird hen having been shot at Stanway, near Colchester, in May, 1907, while in company with an ordinary wild Turtle Dove to whom it was presumably mated.

Foreign Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

I have yielded to the solicitation of a number of members to commence a series, which must be a lengthy one, dealing with Foreign Bird Keeping and describing the various genera and species in their respective groups. As a sort of opening chapter I purpose dealing with a few of the phases under which Foreign Birds are kept. These suggest themselves to me somewhat as follows:

1. The keeping for Exhibition purposes.
2. The keeping of species hitherto not bred in captivity, for the purpose of breeding, discarding each species after success, for others still unbred.

3. The keeping of species for breeding purposes generally, as distinct from first records, to confirm the habits and life histories of the respective species, on the basis of several records.
4. The domestication of Foreign species—*almost, as yet, unbroken ground.*
5. The keeping and breeding of birds in cages and aviaries, in living-rooms and specially constructed bird-rooms.

The above might be materially increased, but will, I think, suffice for our purpose; merely noting in passing that each section should be equally tolerant of the other, and that, however much we may be obsessed with our own particular phase of Foreign Bird-keeping, that of the other sections are equally deserving of consideration—yet, at the same time, we must each be enthusiastic in our own section if we are to attain success, for the set backs are so numerous, that only the enthusiast survives. Again if each phase be narrowed to its base, it is perhaps rather surprising to find there is a common foundation to all.

I. THE KEEPING OF BIRDS FOR EXHIBITION: Here there is plenty of scope for skill and patience; each individual must be separately studied and its requirements ascertained, that it may be staged in a perfect and flawless condition. Another feature is that a continual spirit of alertness is necessary, in order to snap up the uncommon, specially beautiful, and rare, as opportunity occurs. Every faculty of the true lover of birds is called into play, and the bird-loving public at large are indebted to the exhibiting section more than is generally admitted, for a sight of many rare and beautiful exotic species for the first time. I venture to say that more skill is required to keep birds fit in cages, than under the comparative freedom of aviary life. That a large measure of success has been obtained, has been abundantly demonstrated of late years, by the excellence of the exhibits of the Foreign Section at the various exhibitions; while the instances of extreme longevity are quite as numerous among the birds of this section, as among those kept in outdoor aviaries.

II. THE KEEPING OF SPECIES HITHERTO NOT BRED IN CAPTIVITY IN GT. BRITAIN: Here we have aviculture under quite a different aspect, the same alertness is required for the acquirement of new species, but skill is turned into quite a different channel. To breed some species, it is necessary to construct a special aviary, not necessarily a large one, to resemble as near as possible, a little bit of their native haunts—instance Mr. Teschemaker's success with the Giant Whydah (*Chera procne*) last season : yet that there is no need, for those unable to do this, to give up in despair is amply proved by Mrs. Anningson breeding almost concurrently both the Red-collared Whydah (*Penthetria ardens*) and the Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua principalis*), in an ordinary aviary, containing a varied and numerous series of birds, the only natural growth of which consisted of a few evergreen shrubs in tubs. The observant eye will notice many of the birds' difficulties and will seek to circumvent them, and many a great triumph will come the way of the aviarist, who is only able to give his birds quite ordinary accommodation. Whatever the accommodation we are able to give, all should seek to gather correct data and to observe carefully as far as may be possible, all the following facts, viz. :—

The colour of eggs and number of clutch (at the same time I would not risk the loss of said clutch to obtain this).

Period of Incubation.

Method of feeding young, with their dietary.

Age at which the fledglings leave the nest.

Nestling plumage.

Age and manner by which adult plumage is attained.

A book should be kept of such records, *it is unsafe to rely on memory alone.*

III. THE KEEPING OF SPECIES FOR GENERAL BREEDING PURPOSES : This group will probably form the largest number of aviculturists, and certainly not one of the least important. The surrounding circumstances are much the same as the preceding section, much the same data should be sought after, and very careful records kept, not merely once, i.e., the initial instance, but over a number of years, so that the initial facts may be confirmed or modified according to the knowledge gained,—herein lies the importance of this sections' work, which shall elevate it from the mere hobby or craze to an actual cult.

IV. THE DOMESTICATION OF FOREIGN SPECIES : Practically nothing has been done as yet in this direction, yet it should prove of great interest ; very probably at no lengthy time new varieties would appear ; however, at this stage, I do not care to enlarge to any great extent upon these sections merely to indicate their purport. It should also mean the placing us beyond the need of outside supply for the species so treated. The necessaries would be two or three aviaries, each containing, say, a pair of several species (each aviary to contain the same to secure unrelated stock) and to give them as natural conditions as possible for the reproduction of their kind. Those with a large series of aviaries might certainly do worse than devote one or two aviaries to such a purpose. Such aviaries should at any rate pay their own way and provide much interest. Practically the only species with which anything has been done in this respect is the Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).

V. THE KEEPING AND BREEDING OF BIRDS IN CAGES: This is somewhat akin to Section I., yet there is a difference, for the point of similarity ends with feeding and treatment, the aviculturist here, has to go a step farther than any of those in the preceding sections, viz., to surmount the various difficulties, contrive cages and surroundings, that shall induce his birds to reproduce their kind under entirely artificial conditions; very little has been done in this country in this direction, though much success has been attained on the Continent, notably in Germany, in this aspect of bird-keeping. There have been one or two notable exceptions recently among our members, of which I will instance two :—

Mr. H. Robbins, who reared a brood of Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acutcianda*) in I believe quite a small cage.

Dr. H. Hetley, who successfully reared a brood of Crimson Finches (*Neochmia phaeton*) in a cage in one of his sitting rooms.

If both these gentlemen, would give us full details of their cages and furnishings, and also if possible a photo of same, it would be of great interest and utility.

Many of our members have attained great skill in the keeping of birds in cages, if some of these would send us accounts of their methods and procedure, it would contribute greatly to the interest and practical character of the Club Journal.

I have not been otherwise than crude (with intent) in the foregoing remarks, leaving the various aspects of aviculture to be dealt with as the series proceeds.

Neither do I propose to pause here, to deal with aviaries or birdrooms, as it is quite uncalled for, the various detailed accounts of our members aviaries and birdrooms continually appearing, make this quite unnecessary ; therefore I propose to proceed with the groups straight away in the next instalment, commencing with the Tanagridiæ.

[To be continued.]

The Breeding of Green Cardinals and other Notes.

(*Gubernatrix cristata.*)

By Dr. Maurice Amsler.

Green Cardinals : The Editor has asked me to give a few notes on the breeding of my birds in the past season, and I therefore hope readers will excuse somewhat copious details of the breeding of Green Cardinals, for with the exception of a few commoner kinds such as Zebra Finches, most of the eggs laid proved infertile.

On 4th May I turned out, in an open Aviary, 15ft. long by 9ft. wide, one pair each of Green Cardinals, Virginian Cardinals and Red-whiskered Bulbuls. On May 10th, the Green Cardinal cock began the building of two nests, almost side by side, on the top of a brick wall : one of them was then lined by the hen with moss and cocoa-nut fibre.

A neat cup-shaped nest was completed in four days, and nothing more was done for a time ; the Virginian Cardinals and Bulbuls were however strictly kept from the vicinity of the nest.

On May 29th, and the two succeeding days the hen laid her clutch of three eggs, beginning incubation at once The eggs were about the size of a Starling's, of a light blue colour, with irregular chocolate spots at the thicker end.

I never saw the cock on the nest, but at the same time he was seldom far away and kept constant guard, in fact my entry into the aviary was usually met with a reception which almost amounted to assault.

As far as I could see, the hen left the eggs three or four times daily, for a stretch and feed, but was quickly driven back by her mate, who, however, never attempted to feed her while on the nest.

On June 11th and 12th two of the eggs hatched out (the third ultimately proving to be clear), the period of incubation was therefore twelve days. From the first day the cock fed the young chicks from morning to night, the hen at first brooding them, and raising herself up to allow her mate to feed the chicks.

The latter were at first of an orange pink tinge with black beaks and down.

On the third day the hen began to feed also. The food consisting, as far as I could judge entirely of insects, i.e., mealworms, gentles and their pupae and live ants' cocoons: worms whole and cut up were carefully avoided.

At seven days the young were dark-brown in colour, with the wing and tail quills showing well: on the 12th day the feathers were well developed and the black and yellow parentage was clearly recognisable in the chicks. At this stage the old birds began to feed with orange, banana, lettuce and "Cecto": these foods, unlike the insects were regurgitated, whereas the latter were merely killed before being given to the young.

On June 26th (two weeks from the date of hatching), both young birds flopped out of the nest and sat in a privet bush, where they spent the night, never again returning to nest. The next day they were both able to fly the length of the aviary, but their course was a downward one, a higher point of vantage always being attained, by a process of climbing and hopping from twig to twig.

It was only after the young left the nest that I first noticed the parents feed with seed, chiefly white millet and hemp, which was also regurgitated.

My notes on the plumage shortly after leaving nest are: "like hen on back, but duller, no black bib, crest very small and brown; breast, grey and spotted like hen linnet."

July 1st, and the four preceding days were very cold and the young birds spent most of their time puffed up, with their heads under their wings; a slight improvement in the weather soon put them right however, and raised my hopes again.

On the 8th, I first saw the young eat lettuce, and on the 18th, both could shell seed, kill and eat meal-worms, and they also consumed a large quantity of orange and banana.

Shortly after this I went for my holiday and on my return on August 25th, I found both youngsters full grown and healthy: they resembled the cock, but were of much duller hues. They have spent the whole winter out of doors, appearing to feel the cold even less than their parents. As I have recently parted with them

I fear I cannot substantiate the books, which say that full colour is not attained for three years, but I rather think these two particular birds will be as bright as their father by the end of the summer, as I had recently noticed a rapid increase of bright yellow on the wings.

Both birds turned out to be cocks, and I think were a trifle larger than either of the parents.

My method of supplying insects during the early stages was to give about 20 mealworms, together with other insects, about five times daily, and again after dark for the early morning feed.

As far as Cardinals are concerned, I think the above goes to prove that mealworms are not only a safe, but a very useful food for the rearing of young birds.

DIAMOND SPARROWS did not trouble to build a nest and the eggs therefore got broken against the bottom of the nest box.

MASKED FINCHES on the other hand so enjoyed nest building that they did not sit long enough to hatch their eggs.

BLUE-BREASTED WAXBILLS built and sat but laid no eggs: at the present moment however (February 22nd) they are sitting on three fertile eggs.

PARROT FINCHES built and laid,—eggs all clear.

CUTTHROATS had the same result.

Of my other birds that nested and laid:—

SIBERIAN BULLFINCHES: Laid four eggs in a canary cage and sat steadily, the hen however died the tenth day, I transferred the eggs, which were quite cold, to a CUTTHROAT, who hatched out the young but did not feed.

My friend Mr. Temple gave me a hen Lancashire Canary on May 15th, which I introduced to a Siberian Goldfinch; on the 17th and three succeeding days four eggs were laid three of which were fertile.

The Goldfinch had never seen a Canary before, which goes to prove that a long acquaintance is not always necessary in Mule breeding, two days being sufficient on this occasion.

GOULDIAN FINCHES: I will conclude these lines with some rather depressing notes on this beautiful but disappointing species. I started the season with one adult hen and two cocks, also three young English-bred birds of 1908. Two of the latter turned out to be hens and attained full plumage and colour at the age of 10—11 months, third proved to be a cock of the red-headed variety: he was bred from Red x Black-headed parents. The changes in the cocks appear to be much slower than the hens, and took fully one year: the violet of the breast being a mere change of colour, but the red of the head and face being attained by the growth of numerous quills. These birds were all in perfect health the whole summer, but did not attempt to build as newly imported birds so readily do. Finally in September I transferred them to an indoor bird-room, where I had the misfortune to lose all three hens from egg binding in one week: just as I was hoping to breed some more young. My opinion of these birds is that hens are rather sluggish and liable to get too fat, unless given a large aviary 30—40 feet long.

The cocks are of the same disposition, but, as they have not the same troubles to contend with as the hens, are quite easy to keep in health.

I have bought some of Mr. Wallace's recent importation and hope this year, with more flying room, to have better luck.

Eton, February 22, 1910.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from p. 52.*)

HIRUNDINIDAE.

Swallows are common here all the year round, though their numbers must be considerably augmented in the winter by the arrival of the Common Swallows and other European species. Their native names, which they share with the Swifts, are NANA (Mandingo) and MBELAR (Joloff).

Chelidon urbica. HOUSE MARTIN.

Range. Europe and Asia; Africa in winter *(H.L.)*

I had often seen these birds, but had never recognised them as House Martins till I picked up one dead in the Upper River District in January 1907 and then was able to identify it by its feathered tarsi and toes.

Cotile riparia. SAND MARTIN.

Range. Europe, Asia, America; Africa in winter *(H.L.)*

C. cincta. BANDED SAND MARTIN.

Range. Tropical Africa *(H.L.)*

Sand Martins are not uncommon in the Gambia all the year round, but I think that *C. cincta* is the commoner of the two here even in the winter. They are distinguished by the presence or absence of a small tuft of feathers on the tarsus,—present in *riparia*, absent in *cincta*. One, shot in December 1906 out of a number hawking about a small valley near Burreng, possessed these tufts and was therefore *C. riparia*, but most of those one sees probably belong to the other species.

Of the true Swallows *(Hirundo)* seven species from the ranges given in the Hand List should occur in the Gambia; I know five different kinds at least, though I am not quite certain that I can fit all of them into their proper places.

Hirundo rustica. **COMMON SWALLOW.**

Range. Europe and Asia; Africa in Winter. *(H.L).* Certainly a regular visitor to the Gambia. In April, 1907, I have a note "that a good many Swallows with red throats, obviously larger than the common Red-throated Swallow here (*H. lucida*), are passing Bathurst, all moving north; these must be English Swallows." I have seen the same birds on other occasions in the Gambia, and on nearly every voyage out, at the end of October, we get a good many common Swallows on board all the way down the African coast.

H. lucida.

Range. Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

This is the species commonly know as "the Singing Swallow" in Bathurst, a name which it quite deserves for the sweet notes of its softly warbled song. It is everywhere plentiful and resident all the year round with us; it breeds from about May onwards, making mud nests in the the verandahs of the Bathurst houses, while up-country it builds under the eaves of or inside the native huts under their grass roofs, and also on the steep sides of the ironstone ridges and occasionally in deserted white-ant hills. The nests have generally a few feathers, etc., mixed with the mud, and one in my verandah was mainly made up of pieces of crumpled brown paper mixed with mud, with the result that a most serviceable structure (maximum strength at the cost of the minimum of mud-carrying) was obtained.

It is a smaller bird than *H. rustica* (6 instead of 7 inches long), but its plumage is almost exactly like that of that species—a rich blue-black above and white below with rufous throat and forehead. The bill and feet are black, the irides sepia.

H. aethiopica.

Range. North-east and East Africa; West Africa, the Niger to Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

Still smaller than *H. lucida*, from which species it differs in having a white (or in the young, a pale fawn) instead of a rufous throat and a black collar interrupted in the centre.

H. leucosoma.

Range. Senegambia to Gaboon. *(H.L.)*

Another small Swallow about the same size as the last; it is entirely blue above without any rufous forehead.

A small Swallow without any rufous on the breast or throat is very common up the river at all seasons, and seems to breed nearly all the year round, as I have a note to the effect that "the white-breasted Swallows were nesting in the houses at Kunting in December, 1905, and that they were flocking in their thousands on the palm-trees on the 24th of the same month." Although I have never had one in my hand to examine, by a process of exclusion I conclude that the bird my note refers to is either *aethiopica* or *leucosoma*; whichever it is, it is very abundant, and well known here.

H. melanocrissa.

Range. North-east Africa; Interior of Senegambia. *(H.L.)* This and the next two species are distinguished by their rufous rumps from the first four species of *Hirundo* on my list, in all of which the rump is blue-black. *H. melanocrissa*, which differs from the others in having a streaked under surface, I have never seen in the Gambia.

H. senegalensis. SENEGAL SWALLOW.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. North-east and Equatorial Africa *(H.L.)*

This is the largest of our Gambian Swallows. During half the year they are as plentiful as any in the Protectorate, but I have never seen them in Bathurst or indeed anywhere near the coast line. They arrive about April or May and begin to breed almost at once, making nests inside the native huts, using both inhabited and deserted ones, and not confining themselves to the former, as do most of our other Swallows. Every year their arrival is quite a noticeable event, as they reach us in large flocks, and at first, at any rate, always roost in company on the tops of dead or leafless trees: one day there are only the ordinary number of our resident Swallows about a place, the next the air is thick with the visitors, which are easily distinguished by their larger size (9 inches), chestnut bellies, long wings and deeply forked tails.

H. gordoni

Range. Senegambia to Angola. *(H.L.)*

Like *senegalensis* but much smaller and with a rufous instead of a white throat. I noted in December, 1906, a white-breasted red-rumped bird, smaller than the Senegal Swallow as being quite common at Burreng and elsewhere, which I think was this species: if so it must be a resident here.

Psalidoprogne obscura.

Range. West Africa, Gold Coast to Portuguese Gambia. *(H.L.)*

This Rough-winged Swallow I have never to my knowledge met with. It is black glossed with green above and dull black below, and has very long wings finely serrated on the outer margins and a deeply forked tail.

CYPSELIDAE.

Cypselus apus. COMMON SWIFT.

Range. Europe; Africa in winter *(H.L.)*

In January 1907, I saw a number of black Swifts at Sunkunda, one of our most easterly towns, which I feel sure were common Swifts, but I do not remember having seen any elsewhere or on any other occasion. Our most abundant Swift is the mouse-coloured bird, which I take to be the next species.

C. affinis.

Range. Tropical Africa; India. *(H.L.)*

This is a distinctly smaller bird than the European Swift, and has an almost square tail instead of the deep fork of the latter. The general colour is mouse-brown, with a greenish gloss on the back and chest in adult birds, and white chin, rump, and thighs. They make large untidy nests of grass, feathers, etc., held together by mud and saliva, which are fixed singly, or perhaps more commonly two or three together, to the rafters which support the floors of the verandahs of our houses. They are extremely plentiful in Bathurst, and to a less extent up country also, and when nesting are by no means desirable partners in one's house, on account of the noise they make and the annoying way they have of waking up when the lamps are lighted and dashing wildly about the room, eventually to fall exhausted into one's bath or other inconvenient place.

Tachornis parva. PALM SWIFT.

Range. North-east Africa ; Sudan *(H.L.)*

A dull mouse colour above and below with a slight greenish gloss on the wings and tail ; the latter very deeply forked. A few are generally to be seen at McCarthy Island, where they roost and nest in the numerous Rhun-Palms.

ERRATA : Page 49, MUSICAPIDAE should read MUSCICAPIDAE. Page 49, last line but one *Heliota* should read *Hyliota.*

The Bare-eyed Cockatoo

(*Cacatua gymnopis*).

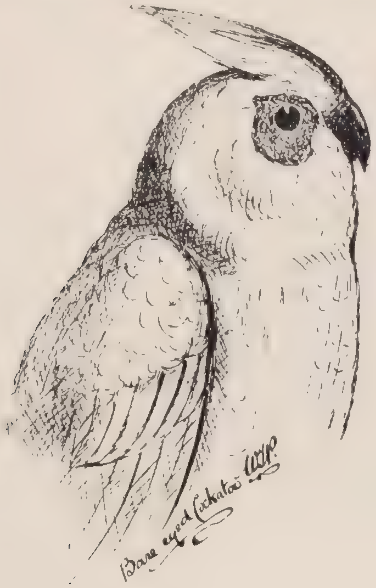
By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

I have had many requests for articles on Parrots and Cockatoos, and as such do not seem easy to procure, I am recalling a few personal recollections, compiling notes, and quoting from personal acquaintance with friends' birds to fill the gap.

DESCRIPTION : The general colour of the plumage is white ; forehead and lores, suffused with red ; most of the feathers of head, nape and abdomen, are suffused with rosy-red at the base ; the quills and inner webs of tail feathers, pale yellow ; under side of tail lightly tinted with yellow ; the naked skin round the eye, and a patch below same, blue-grey ; beak, whitish ; legs and feet, bluish ; irides, dark-brown. Total length, about 15 inches, of which the tail measures 5. The sexes, and also the young, differ but little from each other, though the latter are much smaller till adult.

HAB. : South, North, and North West Australia ; where it is mostly found about swampy ground, and is shy and somewhat difficult to approach, as also are many of its congeners. Their food mostly consists of seeds, grain, native bread (a species of fungus) and small tuberous and bulbous roots.

APPEARANCE AND ATTRACTIVE QUALITIES: This strikes one as distinctly odd at first, owing to the extent and shape of the bare skin round and below the eyes; it has however a very clear and beautiful dark-brown eye, and when clean and in good feather is a handsome bird indeed.



I have handled quite a number (for so uncommon a species) of this species and always found them most confiding, engaging, and droll birds; always ready to have the poll scratched or to come out of their cage for a game of romps; I have never been bitten by one yet, though of course one always approaches a strange Parrot or Cockatoo with care, but after the first few minutes have always been able to handle them with impunity. They recognise kindness and petting more than any species of Cockatoo I know, and usually repay it with a very abandon of confidence.

The following notes I am taking from a paper by Frau Oberin Kanzler in the "Die Gefiederte Welt," Feb. 17, 1910, as it records a recent experience with the species:

"when he arrived the naked skin round the eye struck me at first

"very unpleasantly. One knows at once why he is called the Bare-eyed
"Cockatoo. The wonderful clear dark eye soon makes one forget its odd
"surrounding, and when he held out his head to my bent finger to be
"scratched, and, surveyed my face with his clever, expressive eyes—he
"quite captured my heart by storm."

"He had been confined in a cage until he came to me, but I always
"like to give as much liberty as possible. He is called Tessi. After a
"few days I opened the door of his cage and after a very quizzical look
"round, he very prettily swung himself out and up on the top of his cage.
"What a picture he made as he stood there with flapping and outstretched
"wings. Soon he showed his joy and sounded his powerful cry again and
"again as he winged his way round the room. He was easily enticed back
"again by a *tit-bit*, but now he returns voluntarily or at command when
"his period of liberty is up. On account of the furniture Tessie needs to
"be kept under observation, tame as he is, most of it bears his mark. In
"an evil moment I permitted myself to be persuaded into cutting his
"wing. Alas, his beauty was disfigured, his vivacity and confidence marred,
"and he sat for days with a true Hamlet face. Fortunately the moult
"soon set in and we both rejoiced when he was perfect once more. Un-
"fortunately many of my other parrots are afraid of him, and he plays
"upon their fears, giving them many a scare, though he has never harmed
"them, but I had to remove two of them; with another "Jacko" and a
"small Yellow-crested Cockatoo he is great friends and they have many a
"romp together."

"He is charming company when I am resting, clambering about my
"person, turning somersaults on my knees, playing with my fingers, pulls
"the pin out of my cap and flies away with it, and is a very droll
"companion."

As the greater part of my notes and recollections bear a strong family likeness to the above, I do not purpose lengthening out this paper with a repetition of same, merely remarking, that speaking of some half dozen specimens, their demeanour was similar to the above "Tessi" and that I have only come across one morose and treacherous individual.

DIET: A seed mixture of canary, white millet, oats, "paddy" rice, maize, hemp and sunflower seeds, in somewhere near equal parts; this will form the staple diet, individuals can be permitted to exercise their taste a little and any item they do not appear to care for can be left out of the mixture, but not to the extent of reducing the mixture to practically hemp and sunflower seeds. Ripe fruit they should have, and here again you must let the individual choose; plain biscuit, piece of dry toast, nuts in variety, and any green food—such as lettuce, cabbage stalk, grass and maize in the ear, etc., as it cares for; grit, water, and cuttlefish must also be supplied. A piece of sugar cane is appreciated by all Parrots when it can be conveniently procured. With the above there will be no difficulty in keeping the bird's menu varied.

I venture to hope Mr. H. T. T. Camps will kindly supplement the above with accounts of some of the species he has kept.

Editorial.

Sex distinctions of Gold-fronted Green Bulbul (*C. aurifrons*) : Our esteemed member, Mr W. E. Teschemaker, has a true pair of this species I do not know of any published record of the differences between the male and female plumage ; the following, kindly sent by Mr. Teschemaker in response to my enquiry, should therefore prove of general interest :

> The female is decidedly smaller than the male, and her beak more slender.
>
> The golden forehead is much paler, and her upper and under tail-coverts are also paler than those of her mate.
>
> The area of black on throat does not extend further back than a line dropped perpendicularly from the eye.

Nesting Notes : These promise well. From an interesting letter just to hand from our esteemed member Mr. W. R. Temple, I gather the following notes :

> Though the aviaries are large, very few birds are kept in them, so as to get best possible results.
>
> One large aviary contains only two pairs of Tri-coloured Parrot Finches (*Erythrura trichroa*), both pairs are nesting.
>
> Another aviary, equally large, contains three pairs of Painted Finches (*Emblema picta*), and a few Bengalese, which I keep as foster parents.

"In my largest aviary, which has an outside flight 36ft. x 24ft x 12ft. high, I only keep 7 pairs of Parrot Finches (*Erythrura psittacea*), 2 pairs Ruficaudas (*Bathilda ruficauda*), 2 pairs Orange breasted Waxbills (*Sporœginthus subflavus*), 2 pairs Pintail Nonpareils (*Erythrura prasina*), and three odd birds."

From a letter received from our esteemed member Dr. M. Amsler, I ascertain that he has a pair of Indian Olive Finches engaged in the duties of incubation.

Notes from the Zoo: Quite an interesting group are making a short stay here, *en route* to the Antwerp Zoo.

GUNDLACH'S TROUPIAL OR GRACKLE (*Quiscalus gundlachi*). It is a Cuban species and the whole of the plumage is glossy violaceous-black, suffused with a greenish lustre on the wings and tail; the sheen on the plumage is very variable according to the play of light, but is normally as above; irides ruddy-orange; the bill is long and conical with the culmen slighly incurved; bill, legs, and feet, black; total length fully 12 inches, of which the tail measures 5.

It is a very handsome species, bold upstanding, with a really satanic expression, and would show to great advantage in a large enclosure—in form it resembles a huge hangnest.

CUBAN TROGON (*Myiophoneus temmincki*): I was much interested in seeing another specimen of this fine species, though owing to its plumage having been badly broken *in transit*, it possessed not a tithe of the beauty of the fine specimen exhibited by our esteemed member, Mr. C. T. Maxwell, at the Horticultural Hall, and figured in colour in "*B.N.*" Vol. VIII., April issue, making further comment needless here. It is very satisfactory, however, to know another specimen has been imported.

CUBAN BLACK BULLFINCH (*Melopyorha nigra*): A typical bullfinch in form, smaller than our native species. It is glossy black with two broad wing bands—an interesting species but with little to recommend it save rarity.

CUBAN RED-SHOULDERED STARLING (*Agelaeus assimilis*): Very similar to the well known Ruddy-shouldered Cowbird (*A. humeralis*) or perhaps a better description would be a small Red-winged Blackbird (*A. phœniceus*)—all this group are ot much interest in the aviary, but rather dull and wild in a cage.

CUBAN MOCKING THRUSH: A fine bold fearless species, plainly clad, but of graceful form and deportment; really a handsome bird; the eyes are large and very lustrous with the irides red The plumage is grey, lighter on the under-surface; the wings and tail are black, with a few white bars and lines to the former; the throat is white, surrounded with a large patch of black.

PRETRI'S TANAGER (*Spindalis pretrii*): I do not remember to have seen this species in the flesh before, but it bears a strong resemblance to the Bahama Tanager (*S. zena*), of which specimens appeared at several shows two or three years ago; the first named may readily be distinguished from the latter by its olive back. *Adult male:* The upper surface is olive, with the nape and rump deep chestnut;

head black with long white superciliaries ; wings black with a band of white across the primaries and broad margins of the same colour to the wing coverts and secondaries, and a patch on the bend of the wing chestnut ; tail, black, the outer feathers with a broad band of white ; under-surface reddish orange ; chin and broad moustachial stripes, white ; throat, yellow, edged with black on either side ; flanks, greenish ; ventral region and under wing-coverts, white ; bill, bluish ; legs and feet, blackish Total length about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. *Female*. Entirely lacks the bright colours of the under-surface of the male, on this area she is whitish and the colours of the upper surface almost uniform dull olive.

All this genus are handsome and striking birds, needing the food and treatment of an ordinary Tanager.

Very good pairs of Olive and Cuba Finches were included in this series, but do not call for comment. This series, after a moult, will form a handsome addition to the already fine, rare and extensive series of birds in the Antwerp Zoo.

A Welcome Improvement in Small Bird House: Here many bird lovers will be glad to see that one of the groups of cages in three tiers, has disappeared and been replaced by a really handsome erection of wire and glass about 20 x $7\frac{1}{2}$ x 8ft. high, divided into two sections with a wire netting partition ; one division is reserved for Tanagers and the other for Sugar Birds ; the former being twice the size of the latter.

The Tanager Section Contained: Tri-colour. Superb, Black-cheeked, Scarlet, Maroon, Blue, Crown, Striated, Black-headed and Pretri's Tanagers. Also 3 Pekin Robins and 1 pair of Blue Robins.

The Sugar Bird Section Contained: Yellow-winged (6 cocks) ; Purple (1 pair), and Blue Sugar Birds ; also 1 pair Brown-tailed White-eyes.

Though the birds had only been in the enclosures two days at the time of my visit, they had become quite at home and promise to do well, and if flowering plants are introduced a little later, will make a grand display. Other birds noted must be reserved for future comment.

The Purple-capped Lorikeet *(Glossopsittacus porphyrocephalus)*: This lovely little species, which is now imported for the first time, is called by Gould in his handbook on the Birds of Australia, the Porphyry-crowned Lorikeet. In form it strongly resembles the equally beautiful Varied Lorikeet, but is smaller, its total length being but $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, while that of the Varied is 8 inches. As but little is known of this charming species I cannot do better than quote in extenso Gould's account of same :

"This handsome little bird is abundant in South Australia, is equally "numerous at Swan river, and in all probability is dispersed over the "whole of the intermediate country. It is the only true honey-feeding "Lorikeet I have seen from Western Australia, a circumstance which "cannot be accounted for, since the face of the country is covered with "trees so conducive to the well-being of the other members of the group."

"Most of the specimens I collected were shot during the months of "June and July in the neighbourhood of Adelaide, and some of them in "the town itself. It appears to arrive in this district at the flowering "season of the *Eucalypti*, in company with *T. multicolor*, *G. australis* and "*pusilla*, all of which may frequently be seen on the same tree at one "time. As this tribe of birds depend solely for its subsistence upon the "flowers of the gum trees, their presence in any locality would be vainly "sought for at any season when those trees are not in blossom."

"The sexes are precisely alike in size and in the colour of their "plumage. Forehead, lobes and ear coverts, yellow, intermingled with "scarlet; crown of the head, deep purple; back of the head and neck, "yellowish green; wing-coverts and rump, grass green; primaries, blackish "brown, margined externally with deep green, the extreme edge being "greenish yellow; tail, greenish above, golden beneath; throat and under "surface, greenish grey, passing into golden green on the flanks and under "tail-coverts; bill, black; irides in some dark brown, in others light reddish "brown with a narrow ring of orange round the pupil; feet, bluish flesh "colour."

A few of the above have been brought over by Mr. Wallace with a large consignment of various Australian Finches and Parrakeets. I have not seen this species, but unless Gould described an immature bird their is some discrepancy in the description, for, whereas he describes the throat and undersurface as "greenish-grey," the letters of description which have reached me, describe these parts as pale sky-blue. However, as a pair of these birds are at present sojourning in Mr Millsum's birdroom, he will probably favour us with a description of his lovely and rare acquisition.

The most suitable diet for this species would be milk-sop, well sweetened and sloppy, with any ripe fruit they can be induced to take.

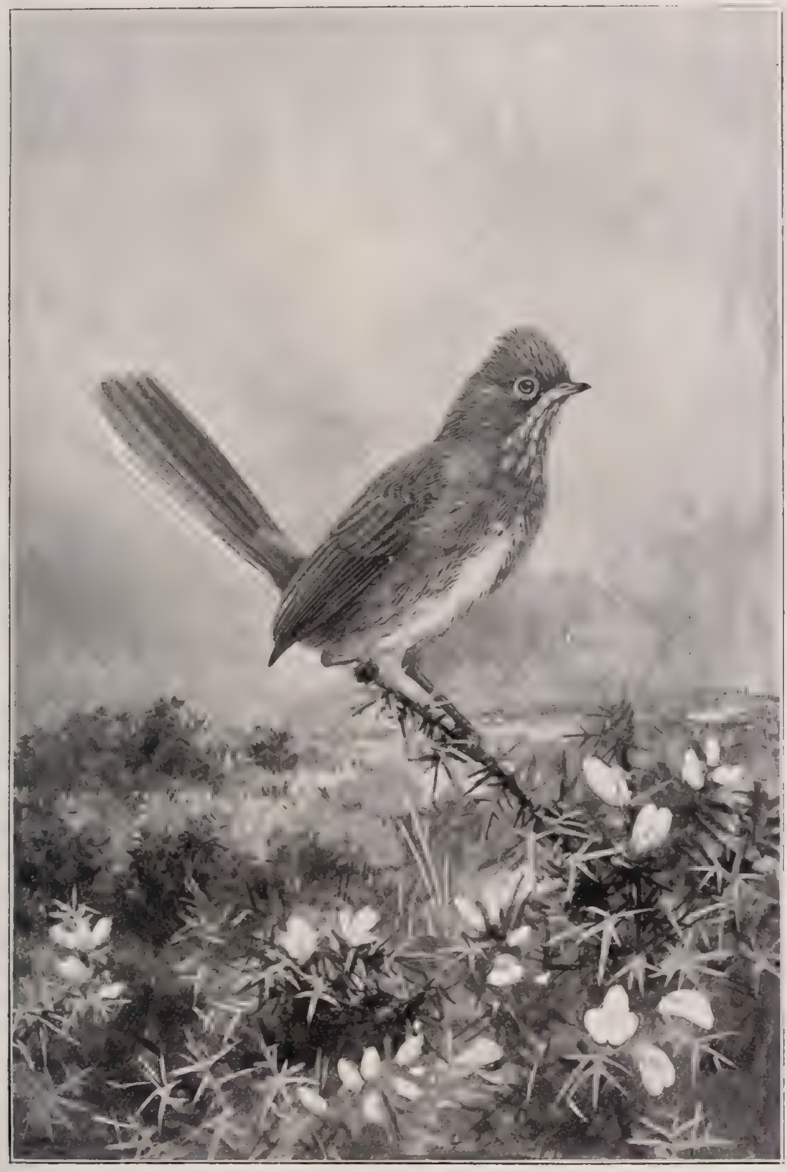
The Dartford Warbler.

(*Melizophilus dartfordiensis*).

By JOHN FROSTICK.

CHAP. I.—AT LIBERTY.

Many of our members have no doubt read my article of a few months back in "Canary and Cage Bird Life," entitled "The Haunt of the Dartford Warbler." Meeting a birdy friend shortly afterwards, he said, "I was much interested in your notes but I was sorry to see



The Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undáta*).

Drawn from living specimen in the possession of Mr. J. Frostick, by H. Goodchild.

that you indicated the locality so clearly." I was amused, and assured him that I purposely, for obvious reasons, put the reader off the right track, as I was then, and still remain conscious that this, one of the few remaining favourite resorts where this rare and beautiful warbler is still to be found should be, as far as I was concerned, a secret.

The fact that I mentioned Hampshire was because all authors of all ornithological works give prominence to this county as the stronghold of this delightful bird, and I believe rightly so.

Howard Saunders says: "It is known to breed in nearly all the southern counties from Cornwall to Kent inclusive, *cepecially in Hampshire* (the italics are mine), Surrey and Sussex; sparingly in the valley of the Thames, and perhaps in some of the Midland counties; while it has been observed in Cambridgeshire and undoubtedly nests in Suffolk and Norfolk.

In my former article I conducted my readers on a cycle tour to the southern borders of Surrey, and there left them while I proceeded on my journey and eventually reached the goal I had been striving after for twenty years or more, and now I feel like crying Excelsior, for I believe I am the only Englishmen who can claim to have moulted the Dartford Warbler in captivity since the days of Colonel Montague. There is certainly no other authentic instance of anyone else having done so, and this is one of the very few British birds which has never been exhibited.

A contributor to "Canary and Cage Bird Life" has brought forward a lot of evidence (?) with the intention of proving my claim to be erroneous, but has shown himself too apt to draw conclusions without sufficient proof. In his "By-the-Way Notes" he says:— "But a word may be said about the well-known Smithers, of Churt, ...who must have taken hundreds of eggs in his time—in the sixties and seventies of the last century....... ...I find it hard to believe that Smithers did not also take live birds." This statement I am able to flatly contradict, Mr. Smithers never possessed a live bird in his life, though he procured hundreds of eggs through his agents for Mr. Gould. I make this statement on the authority of a friend of mine, who knew Mr. Smithers and is still in touch with his sons. This selfsame friend is probably possessed of a greater knowledge of this rare warbler than any other man living. Though of humble calling he is a naturalist whom I feel it is a great privilege to know, one of those men who know from personal observation, and not only from what they read in books. To walk with him across the heaths and commons, over the fields and meadows, or through the woods or forests of his native county, is a revelation. In a letter to me he writes: – "The Dartford Warbler is one of the earliest birds to pair up. it nests early in April, and again about the end of June or the early part of July, two nests a year; this year (1908) they were later than usual. I found three young ones on August 21st last, the latest I have ever seen any. They feed their young on a little smooth green caterpillar and spiders that they find on the gorse bushes, but what they live on in the winter is a mystery to me, unless it is some sort of insect life underneath the heather or gorse. They are very Wren-like in their habits; in winter they pop up when you disturb them, and down in the heather again, and creep away for yards."

The breeding season is the best time to see them, they are not shy then. The cock bird is especially saucy with his pretty little song and funny habit of flying in the air, spreading out its long tail and they have a long tail considering the size of the bird. The song is not unlike that of the Whitethroat. The breeding plumage is very handsome; I cannot exactly describe the colour, but I should call it a deep chestnut. I believe they are very hardy birds. Their greatest enemy are the frequent common fires, which destroy a great many."

The Dartford Warbler derives its name from the fact that it was first discovered on Bexley Heath, near Dartford, in Kent, by Dr. Latham, in April, 1773, since then it has been found so near London as Blackheath and Wimbledon Common, needless to say it has long since left those busy centres, but is still in its favourite localities more plentiful than is generally supposed.

Yarrell says. "On the European Continent this bird does not go up so high as Germany or Holland; it is found in France; but is most plentiful in Provence, Spain, and Italy." In describing the bird, he says: "The beak is slender and nearly black, particularly towards the point; the edges of the upper mandible, and the base of the lower mandible, reddish yellow; irides, reddish; head, cheeks, neck, back and upper tail coverts, greyish black; the wing coverts, wing and tail feathers, blackish brown, with rather lighter coloured edges; the chin, chestnut brown with specks of dull white; throat, breast and sides, chestnut brown; belly, white; under surface of the wings, under tail coverts, and under surface of the tail feathers, slate grey; the tail in shape, cuneiform, the outer feather on each side being $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch shorter than those in the middle. Whole length rather more than 5in., the tail feathers alone being nearly half the whole length of the bird."

No article on the Dartford Warbler could be complete without including the much copied extract from the "London Magazine of

Natural History," by Rusticus, of Godalming, near which place this bird used to be plentiful, the writer says: If you have ever watched a common Wren you must have observed that she cocked her tail bolt upright, strained her little back at right angles, and her throat in the same fashion to make the most of her fixgig of a song, and kept jumping and jerking and frisking about, for all the world as though she was worked by steam; well that's the precise character of the Dartford Warbler, or, as we call it, the Furze Wren. When the leaves are off the trees, and the chill winter winds have driven the summer birds to the olive-gardens of Spain, or across the Straits, the Furze Wren is in the height of his enjoyment. I have seen them by dozens skipping about the furze, lighting for a moment upon the very point of the sprigs, and instantly diving out of sight again, singing out their angry impatient ditty for ever the same. Perched on the outside of a good, tall nag, and riding quietly along the outside, while the fox hounds have been drawing the furze fields, I have seen the tops of the furze quite alive with these birds. They are, however, very hard to shoot, darting down directly they see the flash or hear the cap crack. I do not know which. I have seen excellent shots miss them, while rabbit shooting with beagles. They prefer those places where the furze is very thick, high, and difficult to get in."

I have been given the credit of being the first writer to record the fact that the Dartford Warbler builds its nest in heather in England. All authorities that I have consulted state that the nest is built in the middle of a furze bush. Howard Saunders says: "The nest in this country is placed among the branches of the thickest furze; but on the Continent, especially in the south, broom and heather are selected." The nests I have seen were on the heather, about a foot from the ground, and about ten paces from the nearest furze, which seems to be used as a play-ground. The nest is composed of the long stalks of goosegrass, entwining them with the young and tender branches of the furze, the outside is ornamental with what looks like, at first sight, little balls of wool, but on examination I discovered they were the silvery coloured silken bags that spiders make for the reception of their eggs. The eggs are greenish-white, with olive or reddish-brown markings, and are very similar to those of the Whitethroat.

(*To be continued*).

Notes from Far and Near.

Birds in the Cook Islands.

From the same source another cutting reaches me, also from the "New Zealand Herald," and by the same author, from which I have compiled the following notes :—

The Tropic Bird *(Phæton rubricauda)* is not often seen on the mainland of New Zealand, but is a frequent visitor to the islands. It is an exceedingly handsome species, with pale satiny plumage, washed on the breast and abdomen with rich salmon-red, and the long centre tail feathers red. This species is known to English Ornithologists as the Red-tailed Tropic Bird, and to the natives of the Cook Islands as the Tavaki. They are gregarious, and during the breeding season may be easily caught on the nests as they make no attempt to fly away.

The White Heron is another species found in abundance, but it is a solitary fisher and is frequently seen stalking along the beaches or the shoals in the reef, or standing on a rock ready to pounce upon any fish that come within reach. It is found in greatest abundance on Mangaia, as also are the Blue and the White-fronted Herons ; the Blue is believed to be quite rare in New Zealand. Owing to indiscriminate shooting and the ravages of wild cats, the land birds are almost exterminated. Some fifty years ago, according to the late Rev. Wyatt Gill, the woods of Rarotonga, and several other islands were vocal with the songs of their feathered denizens—now these places are oppressive with the silence that broods over them. The Mynah has been introduced as an insect-destroyer, but some of the residents deny it this quality. Sooty Petrels and Terns are also found in abundance throughout the group. W.T.P.

The White-Headed Parrot.—From a Continental Journal I note the arrival of a rare Parrot, viz., the White-Headed (*Pionus senilis*), which is very rare in captivity ; it is a native of Central America, ranging from Mexico to Costa Rica. This interesting specimen has been added to the collection of the Berlin Zoological Gardens, where it is on view in the new bird house. The principal hue of its plumage is iridescent olive-green, the forehead and crown being shining white, to which it owes its popular names.

W. T. P.

Month's Arrivals.

A Private Consignment of West Indian Birds: Mr. Sutcliffe landed on Monday (February 21st) three Grenada Blackbirds (one ♂ and two ♀); they are handsome birds, about the size of our Fieldfare, with a very corvine appearance; the male is entirely glossy purple-black; the female is smaller and greyer.

Three black birds, glossy-blue, probably a species of Cowbird. Their diet consists, for the greater part, of seed; one of them sings quite a nice song; all three are males.

A pair of Hangnests, species unknown. Male: Top of head, dull brownish yellow; sides of face, yellow; lores and ear coverts, brown; throat, bright yellow; upper surface, black, each feather of mantle edged with greyish brown; under surface, black, the feathers of the breast edged with grey; bill and feet, black. The female is similar, but the yellow of her head is paler, and not so well defined; her entire plumage is greyer.

Five Blue Tanagers (*Tanagra episcopus*), Three Palm Tanagers (*Tanagra palmarum*), One Maroon (*Rhamphocœlus jacapa*), One pair Black (*Tachyphonus melaleucus*), One unknown Tanager (*Calliste*), a beautiful bird, plumage too bedraggled at present to give a description. Mr. Sutcliffe caught this bird with lime and its plumage has got much damaged in the process.

One Blue-headed Violet Tanager (*Euphonia ?*) a very rare bird in the Demerara district; Mr. Sutcliffe got two of these, both males, one of them caged 18 months, in colour this bird is richer than the Violet, and the whole of the crown and nape is shining greenish-blue; lower back, bright yellow. It is a very beautiful species, and has a sweet song.

One Black-throated Violet Tanager (*Euphonia ?*), a young bird just assuming adult plumage, smaller than the Violet, but will probably have the same style of colouration when adult; a broad black patch on throat.

Two Violet Tanagers (*Euphonia violacea*) both males. One unknown Tanager of typical *Euphonia* build; the most striking feature is the white webs of the primaries; plumage dirty.

Mr. Sutcliffe has sent over altogether no less than seven species of *Euphonia* or their allies, most of them are very probably new to British aviculture.

Among the seed-eaters in this consignment may be mentioned three pairs of Hooded Siskins (*Chrysomitris cucullata*), three Columbian Siskins (*Chrysomitris*), one ♂ and two ♀. Three ♂ and probably some ♀ Slaty grey Finches (*Spermophila anlis*). Three ♂ and probably some ♀ Black-headed Lined Finches (*Spermophila ocellata*). Three pairs of Grosbeaks —probably *Oryzoborus torridus* (Ed.)—Male: Head, chest, and whole upper surface, black; under surface, chestnut; feathers under wings, white; a small patch of white on shoulders and another at the base of primaries; tail, beak, and feet, black. Female, brown. One large Black Grosbeak, with a huge Hawfinch-like beak, and a white patch on the wings; and three hens †

R.S.

I recently saw in De Vons, an unique, at least it was so to me, a consignment of Sugar Birds, consisting of the four species together, viz., The Purple, Yellow-winged, Black-faced, and the Blue. Later, I saw at Mr. Hamlyns' some Cuba and Parrot Finches. S.M.T.

The well-known dealer, A. E. Jamrach, has recently received some interesting species in pairs, viz., New Caledonian Horned Parrakeets, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, and some species of Senegal Quail or Guan, which closely resemble diminutive Bantam Fowls. Also a Glaucous Macaw. W.T.P.

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† The foregoing interesting notes came to hand just as we were going to press. Further notes on same and identification must remain over till next issue.

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when they are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

Mr. Gray will be willing to examine living birds (including poultry, game, aviary, and cage-birds), and give advice as to the treatment of any disease they may have, for a fee of 5s. each bird, the owner taking all risks and paying the carriage both ways.

Answered by Post.—The Hon. Lady Harvey, O. Millsum (3), W. H. Raven, Major Horeburgh.

Yellow Budgerigar, ♀ (H. W. Mathias). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Gouldian Finch, ♂ (Mrs. B. W. Hodgkin). Cause of death, pneumonia. This disease has killed the majority of these birds recently imported.

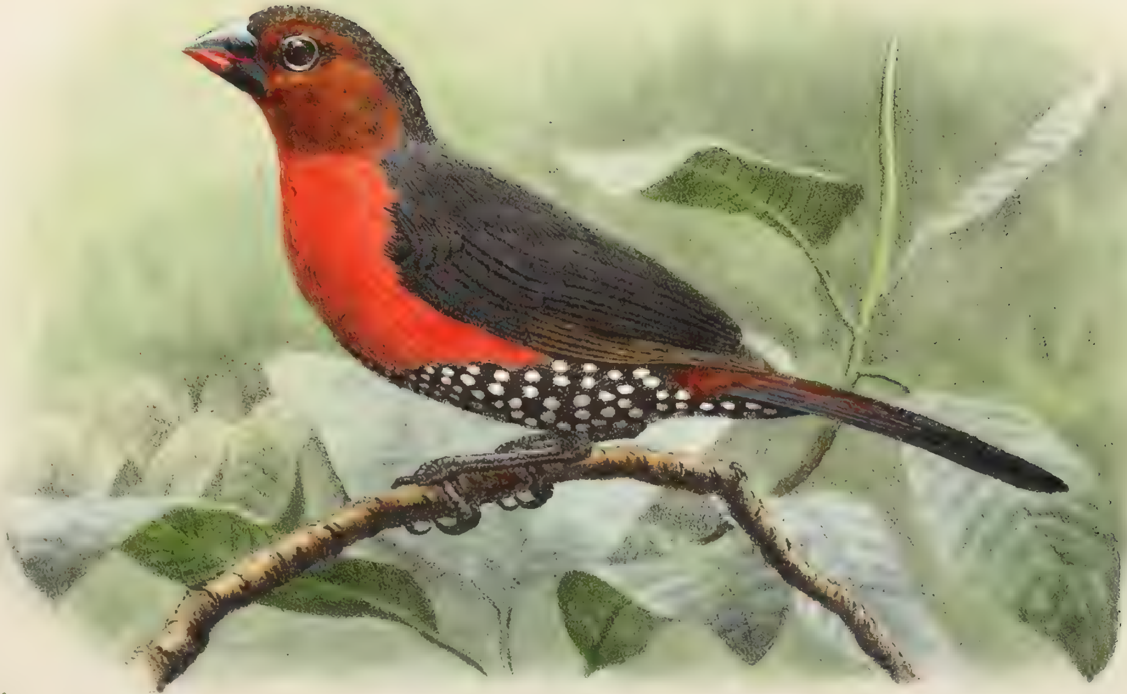
Two St. Helena Waxbills (John Sherard Reeves). Cause of death, fatty degeneration of the liver.

Gouldian Finch, ♀, (Dr. J. Easton Scott). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Budgerigar, ♂ (H. W. Mathias). Cause of death, inflammation of bowels.

Parrot Finch (J. A. W. Meadows). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Henry Gray, M.R.C V.S.



H. Goodchild del et lith.

Huth,

BLUE BILLED WEAVER.

Spermospiza haêmatina ♀

Drawn from a living specimen belonging to Dr E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Blue-Beaked Weaver-Bird

(*Spermospiza haematina*).

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

This species is a handsome West African Weaver, very grosbeak-like in build, which if more commonly imported would be a great addition to the list of our seed-eating cage-birds.

As will be seen from the plate (to which this sketchy article is a mere addendum), their chief colours are crimson and black, and as the artist has provided such a life-like presentation,* I need add nothing further in the way of description, except perhaps to point out the marked difference between the sexes, that is the entirely black belly of the male, the same part in the female being spotted with round white spots on a black ground.

I know nothing from personal experience of their habits, as I have only seen one in the Gambia, where they must be very rare, but in other places lower down the coast they are much commoner and are stated to haunt fairly thick bush and to breed singly (not in colonies), making a spherical nest with an entrance near the top.

The genus contains two other species, *S. guttata* and *S. rubricapilla*, of which the latter however is only known from two skins of females in the British Museum. The differences between the three species are fully set forth in the KEY in Shelley's "Birds of Africa," and this I have ventured to quote *in extenso*, as with it and our plate anyone who might obtain a specimen of the genus could easily identify the species.

Head not entirely red.

Bill only tipped with orange-red ; upper tail coverts not the same bright crimson as the throat.

Upper tail-coverts and abdomen, black. ... =*haematina*, ♂.

Upper tail-coverts, dull crimson ; abdomen, spotted or barred with white. .... = *haematina* ♀.

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* Of the female.

Bill with edges of the mandibles, orange-red ; upper tail-coverts, glossy bright crimson like the throat.

Abdomen, black. .... = *guttata* ♂.
Abdomen spotted or barred with white.......... = *guttata* ♀.
Entire head, crimson................................ = *rubricapilla.*

The two commoner species have been known as at any rate possible, though rarely imported cagebirds for many years, at least since the beginning of the 19th century, as there are coloured plates of both species in Vieillot's Oiseaux Chanteurs, which was published in 1805. In Reichenbach's Singvogel (1861) there are also coloured plates of the two species. At the Zoo there have been a few specimens at different times, and as recently as 1906 Mr. Hamlyn brought two examples of *haematina* back with him on his return from one of his expeditions to the West Coast of Africa, but hitherto they seem to have never been imported except in ones and twos, and then more or less accidentally. They seem to be birds which are easily catered for in captivity. The bird I brought home in July did well on canary and millet seed, and is now at the Zoo in the Small Bird House, where she gets and enjoys a mealworm or two daily in addition to the ordinary seed diet.

The Aviaries and Birds at Benham Valence.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

On Good Friday last I was privileged to visit Newbury, and the day proving fine and sunny, was able to secure some photographs of the handsome aviaries and rare birds, which are included in Mr. Astley's large and varied collection ; some of the photographs illustrate these notes. making lengthy description unnecessary.

The aviaries are exceedingly handsome structures, as will be seen from the illustrations; they are also well arranged, consisting of a house and wire flight. The house of the largest aviary (*A*) has a walk right through, on the left are the enclosures opening into the three outside flights, and on the right are a series of well lighted indoor flights. The houses are heated by a system of hot water radiators and much care and thought has evidently been bestowed on the well-being and comfort of their inhabitants. As I purpose dealing with the birds separately and apart from the aviaries, it will suffice to say here that all the occupants were exceedingly fit ; they have access to the outer flights all through the

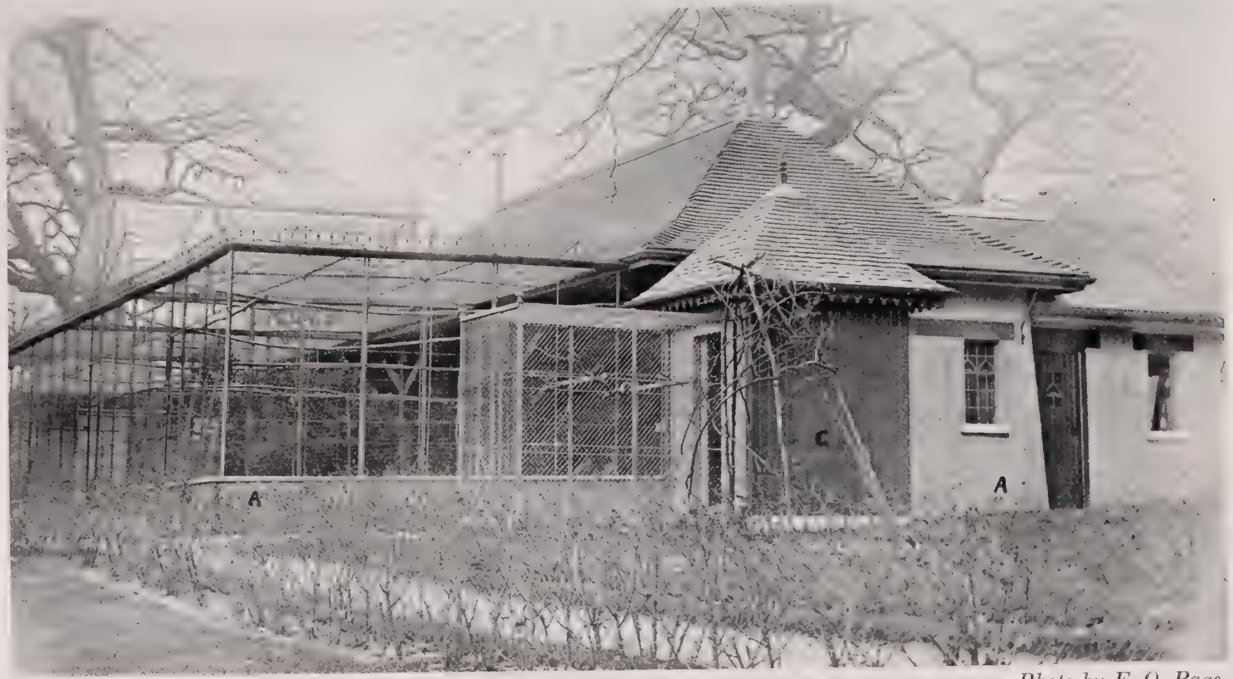
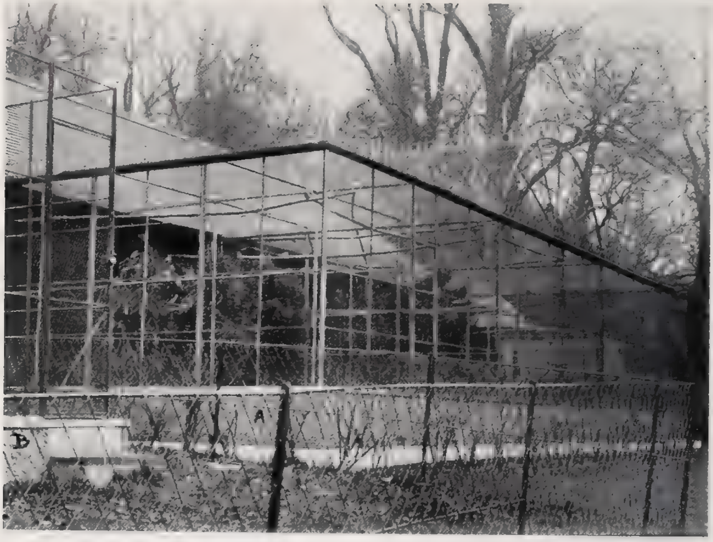
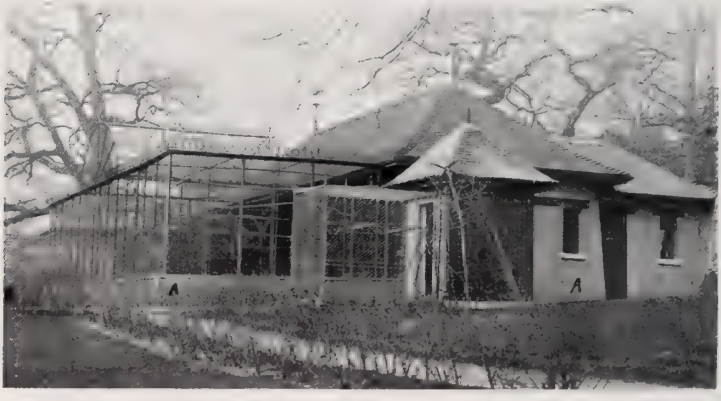


Photo by E. O. Page.

The Aviaries at Benham Valence.





Photos by E. O. Page.

The Aviaries at Benham Valence.

year, and that this treatment suits them admirably was amply demonstrated by the condition of a flock of sixteen Bourke's Parrakeets, a fine pair of Fairy Blue Birds and Metallic Starlings —the glistening and lovely plumage of the two latter, furnishing a spectacle which simply defies description.

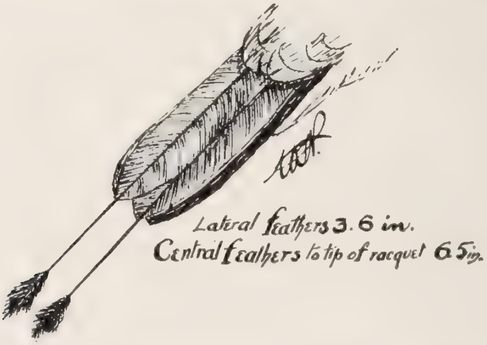
The aviaries are situated on high ground at the back of the house,and are consequently free from damp, moisture draining off quickly to the lower ground. Each flight had a gravel path along the front and each side, the centre being turfed and planted with Bamboos and furnished with a continually running fountain and twiggy branches. The houses or shelters have concrete floors, and the various enclosures were well furnished with twiggy branches, logs and various other nesting receptacles, and were, in fact, in every way complete. I made no detailed list of the birds in their respective aviaries (Mr. Astley supplying me with a general list of the more notable birds), nearly all my notes being mental ; the impression I gathered was that no single aviary was devoted to small birds or solely to Parrakeets (save one (C) which had been originally erected for a pair of Lear's Macaws, but is at present occupied by a pair of Port Lincolns and a Pennant (♂) Parrakeet), but were mixed somewhat promiscously, though a process of sortation in the several enclosures had evidently been reached by the changing about of pugnacious individuals. Most of the indoor enclosures were occupied by single pairs.

At the back of the Aviaries A, B and C was another range on still higher ground, divided up into several divisions ; the only shelter afforded in these enclosures being the angle of the roof, both long sides being open netting, only the ends being solid. In one division there was a lovely Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myiophoneus temmincki*), absolutely fearless, and in every respect the most perfect specimen of this species I have ever seen.

In the next division were a pair of Mexican Jays of the genus *Xanthoura*, but I shall not attempt to define the species, till I have had an opportunity of thoroughly comparing skins of the whole genus. Though the situation was somewhat exposed— the wind having free play through the aviary from front to back— the birds were in excellent feather and a perfect blaze of colour, therefore I deduce that they are a robust species and should at no distant date be bred by those able to give them suitable accommodation.

There was also a well-fitted up bird-room, well lighted and with a roomy balcony attached to the window, on which the birds spend most of their time during genial weather. Here I noticed an exquisite Rufous-bellied Niltava ; one of the most perfect pairs of Hooded Siskins *(Chrysomitris cusullata)* I have ever seen, and if fitness counts for anything at all, they should certainly breed this season ; a good Cuban Thrush *(Mimocicala rubripes)*, and a Tropical Seed Finch (*Oryzoborus torridus*), were the principal occupants. In the house and conservatory I noticed several rare birds, viz. :

RACQUET-TAILED PARROT. *(Prioniturus platurus)*. Unfortunately the photos taken of this bird show too much movement for reproduction, the exposures having to be somewhat lengthy owing to being made under glass, and in the early part of the morning before the sun condescended to shine ; therefore I am compelled to be content with figuring a rough sketch of its tail (made on the spot). This, probably the only living specimen in Europe, is a very fine male, perfect save for a strained wing, causing it to project, thus marring the symmetry of an otherwise perfect bird.


Lateral feathers 3.6 in.
Central feathers to tip of racquet 6.5 in.

Description (♂) : Bright grass green, tinged with yellowish on the under surface ; band across the crown, red ; hind-head, grey ; the back, scapulars and upper wing coverts, greenish-grey ; other coverts and primaries, green edged with yellow ; a band of bright yellow crosses the interscapular region ; the tail is green, with the two central feathers extending as bare shafts for 3½in. with their tips webbed in the form of a racquet, the centres of which are blue ; the lateral feathers have the ends blue which extends upwards for fully one inch; irides, brown; bill, lead-colour. Total length to tip of central tail feathers, 13 inches.

The female lacks the grey (excepting a patch on each wing) and red areas of the male, also the yellow band across the inter-scapular region and her central tail feathers are fully one inch shorter than those of the male.

Habitat: "Celebes, Togian Islands, Siao, and Bouton" (B.M.C.). Our esteemed member Mr. E. W. Harper imported a female of this species in 1902, and presented it to the London Zoo. Mr. Harper remarks in the "Avicultural Magazine," Sept., 1902:

> "I fed it as I would an African Grey Parrot, viz., on canary seed, "hemp, dari, rice in the husk, and millet; it was particularly fond of canary "seed. A bit of dry biscuit, toast, or crust of bread was always relished; as "were also fruit, such as banana or orange, and a little bit of lettuce now "and then..................I must give the bird a good character by stating that "it never made itself a nuisance by continually screaming, as so many badly "behaved Parrots do."

PURPLE-BREASTED PARROT (*Triclaria cyanogaster*): This specimen was exhibited at the Palace Show of February, 1908, and for some time it was the sole living specimen of its kind in Europe, but quite recently one has come into the possession of the Berlin Zoo. It is also known as the Violet-bellied and Azure-bellied Parrot; Purple-breasted is surely a misnomer, Purple-bellied if not so euphonious is certainly more descriptive. It much resembles an Eclectus, but is fully one-third smaller. Its range appears to be confined to S.E. Brazil. The general body-colouring is lustrous green, with a large patch of violet, suffused with purplish in the centre, on the abdomen; the eyes are very beautiful and of a ruddy-brown colour. The female lacks the violet abdominal patch. It was in excellent condition and very tame but objected to being handled.

SHORT-TAILED PARROT (*Pachynus brachyurus*). This is another great rarity, a recent acquisition, and in consequence was somewhat rough in feather, so its portrait was not taken; however, as it appears in excellent health, this will soon be remedied in such skilled hands. The sexes are alike. The body colouring is green, paler and washed with yellowish on the under-surface, tail and tail coverts; crown, bluish-green; primaries and greater coverts, dark green; secondaries and medium wing-coverts edged with yellowish-green: on the lesser wing-coverts is a dark red patch; a red band crosses the base of the tail feathers: irides, red. Total length about nine inches, of which the tail measures about two inches. It was already finger tame and is a most interesting species.

RED-CAPPED PARROT (*Pinopsittacus mitratus**). Yet another rarity and a very handsome species. It may be roughly described as rich green, with the quills and tail feathers more or less blue; front of the head, lores and a band below the eyes, bright red. Total length, about nine inches, of which the tail measures over five. The specimen referred to is a female in excellent condition and very tame. The female lacks the red head markings of the male. Hab. "S.E. Brazil and Paraguay" (B.M.C.)

LEAR'S MACAWS (*Anodorhynchus leari*). Mr. Astley possesses a true pair of this charming species; charming for the following reasons: They are very rare—They are very amiable—They are not noisy; these by no means exhaust their good qualities, but space must be considered. I have regretted since that I did not secure their portraits, as to my eye they are more elegant in form than the general run of Macaws, and beautiful without being garish, there is nothing to spoil the harmony, though a study in blue, this is not spoiled even by the orange skin round the eye, or the patches of yellow on each side of the base of the lower mandible. Mr. Astley finds his pair amiable, intelligent and interesting. But little is known of their habits in a state of nature or even their range, and the B.M.C. throws no light on the latter. The only information so far as I am acquainted with, is that they are shipped from Bahia, Santos and Rio, being brought down from the interior.

PIGMY OWL (*Glaucidium gnoma*). Of rarities there appear to be no end, and this quaint and interesting species, of which we secured a photo under great difficulty, and which is reproduced herewith: its diminutive size is easily appreciated by comparison with the Hyacinth placed there for that purpose. Owing to the shadow from the top of the cage, the actual beauty of the colour arrangement—warm and cold browns, white and pale yellowish-white—is but feebly indicated. The bird is quite a recent acquisition and was not sufficiently steady to have out of its cage. When the wings and tail were spread as it fluttered against the front of its cage, it was not merely handsome but really beau-

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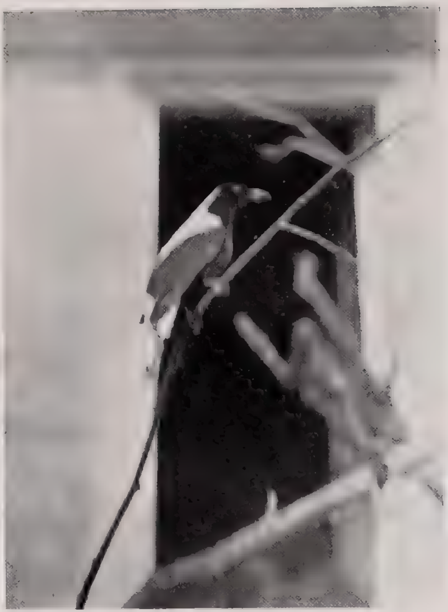
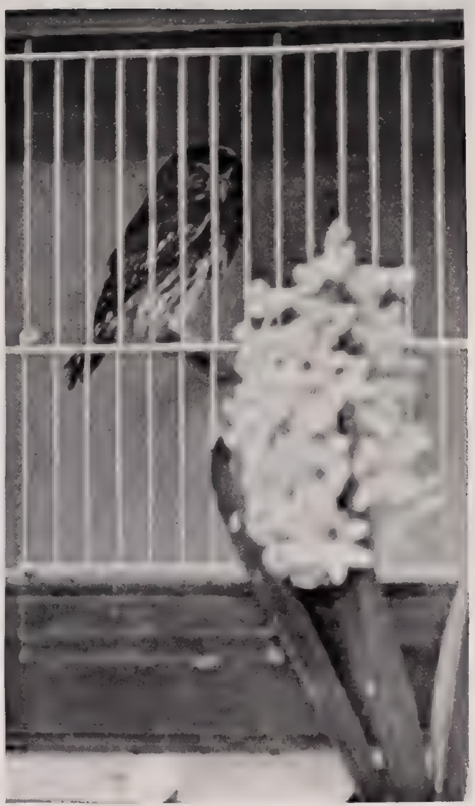
* *P. pileatus,* B.M.C.



The Fairy Blue Bird.



Photos by E. O. Page.

Mexican Pigmy Owl.

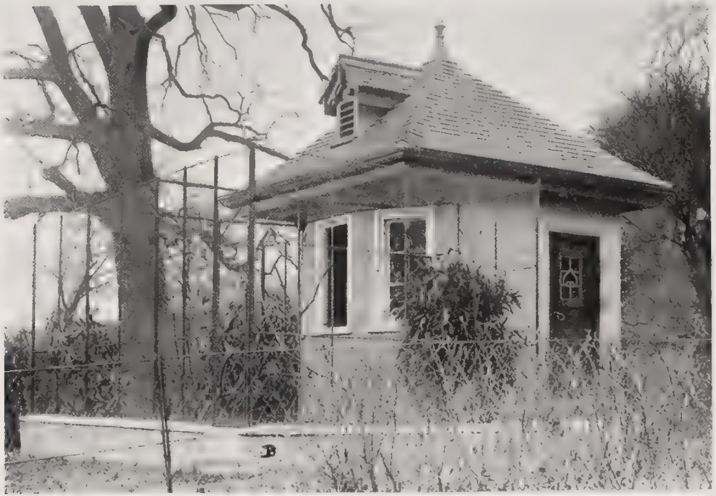


Photo by E. O. Page.

Aviary (B), Benham Valence.

tiful. It ranges from Brit. Columbia to Guatemala, According to the "Cambridge Natural History," that though retiring they are also fearless, and capture birds bigger than themselves, bats, rodents, moths and large insects generally. There is a still smaller Guatemalan species (*G. cobanonse*) which is five inches long, *gnoma* being just over six inches long. A most interesting bird.

HOODED PARRAKEETS (*Psephotus cucullatus*). This species is very similar to the well known, but very uncommon, Golden-shouldered Parrakeet (*P. chrysopterygius*), but may readily be distinguished therefrom by the absence of the yellow forehead, larger golden wing patches, and deeper red on the ventral region. The females of the two species differ as follows : Hooded (*P. cucullatus*), crown of head, dull apple-green ; Golden-shouldered (*P. chrysopterygius*) has the crown dull brownish-chestnut and is generally paler in colour. I am indebted to Mr. Astley for pointing out these distinctions. Mr. Astley has two pairs of this species, they are recent acquisitions, and it is questionable whether he will succeed in saving them, though there had been an improvement in their condition since he removed them to a house with an almost tropical temperature. It is certainly to be hoped that not only will they be saved, but also breed during this season. Hab. : New Caledonia.

In the various aviaries are to be found the following, of most of which I can make but scant mention.

BOURKE'S PARRAKEET (*Euphema bourkii*) : A fine flock of 16 ; they are free breeders in these aviaries.

SPLENDID ROSELLAS (*Platycercus splendidus*). This species may well be described as a glorified Red Rosella (*P. eximus*); All the colours are richer and purer than those of *P. eximus* and the feathers of the mantle and upper back are edged with brilliant golden-yellow instead of green, and it occurred to me that a better name would be Golden Rosella and more in keeping with the cognomens of the other two species. The specimen was in grand condition, not a feather out of place.

ROCK PARRAKEET (*Neophema petrophila*). Very rare—a species of much interest to aviculturists and which makes one long once more, for the once common, but now unheard of for many years, Turquoisine.

MANY-COLOURED PARRAKEETS (*Psephotus multicolor*):

Called by Gould in his handbook of "Birds of Australia," The Varied Parrakeet.

ROCK-PEBBLER PARRAKEET (*Polytelis melanura*) A beautiful specimen of a grand species, but which space will not permit me to linger to describe. Also known as the Black-tailed Parrakeet (Gould).

PILEATED or RED-CAPPED PARRAKEET (*Porphyrocephalus spurius*). A beautiful species, which is still very uncommon, though a few pairs were imported by Messrs. Payne and Wallace about two years ago. Four young were reared of this species last season in these aviaries, and also, almost concurrently, by our esteemed member Mr. W. Fasey. It will be of great interest if either of these gentlemen can keep track of the young, so as to ascertain, not only at what age they assume full adult plumage, but also the age at which they commence to breed.

I must pause here, as I expect my review of this interesting collection of birds will run into two further instalments at least there are also a number of interesting photos yet to be figured.

(*To be continued.*)

My Aviary and Its Inmates.

By WILLIAM H. BROWNING (New York),
Member of the New York Zoological Society.

In England the keeping of foreign birds in aviaries has long been practised, as one can judge from the membership of the Avicultural Societies of that country.

In America the private aviary is rapidly becoming popular, and with reason, for it is a hobby out of which those who are naturally fond of birds can get a lot of genuine pleasure.

Most people are fond of the singing of birds, and a well-selected aviary is a musical song box. Some admire birds for their plumage, while others make the experiment from a scientific interest in the breeding and rearing of rare foreign species. In a well-constructed aviary the birds are perfectly happy.

My aviary, on my estate at Rye, New York, close to the waters of the Sound, is about fifty feet long by twelve in width. It is built of wood somewhat in old Dutch style. It faces south and the north side is placed as close as we could get it to some large Elm trees which overshadow the roof, so that when the sun is high in summer it is not too hot inside. The south side is glass for about seven feet from the ground, so that a sun parlour is available in winter.

Inside the house is a passage way about four feet wide which runs straight through from end to end. From this the flights—and there are ten of them—are divided off by ordinary $\frac{3}{8}$ wire. The flights resemble stalls, each being 5 ft. x 8 ft. x 12 ft. high. They are divided with wood up to a height of about seven feet, and from there to the roof the $\frac{3}{8}$ wire is used. The wood is set in a slot like the door of a coal bin, so that two flights can be easily made into one if it should be found desirable.

I used $\frac{3}{8}$ wire so that mice cannot get through it and they can through $\frac{1}{2}$-inch wire. In each flight there is a door. It is purposely made low—about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height—and at the side of the door is a box jutting out about eight inches into the passage way. It is 2 ft. 6 in. high by 4 ft. 6 in. long, divided by a board in the middle, so that the same box runs from one flight to the one adjoining. The cover is hinged and divided in two, and by raising these covers the food can be placed in the flights without opening the doors.

I have found this arrangement very satisfactory. If I had it to do over again the only improvement I could suggest would be to make a metal tray, like the tray of a bird cage, at the bottom of each box.

There is a one-inch water-pipe running lengthwise through the middle of the flights, and in the centre of each flight is a tee from which a one-half-inch pipe comes up through the floor to a height of about four inches. The top of this short half-inch connection is threaded, and after it had been slit with a hack saw, I screwed on each one an ordinary half-inch cap. I found that I could adjust the flow of water by the distance I screwed the cap down, and that the spray was forced directly downward.

Another hole was made through the floor, close to the inlet, and a one-inch coupling set flush with the bottom of the basin. In this a short piece of pipe about two and a half inches long is screwed loosely. If it is removed all the water washes away, and if left in it will not rise above its level.

My basins are made of concrete. I had a plumber make two galvanized iron hoops for a mould—the larger about 1 foot 8 inches in diameter by 5 inches high, and the smaller 1 foot 6 inches in diameter by 4 inches wide. By setting the smaller inside the larger, and raising the inside one, one inch from the floor, it is easy to see how each basin was made.

The cost of the twenty basins—for there are ten in the outside flights besides the ten inside—was about twenty dollars.

On the outside I used brass pipe and a brass cap for the short connection, and there is no waste, the water overflowing on the sand.

One 10 x 10 pane in the lower sash, which raises outward and hooks back, is used as a door. This gives access to the outdoor flights which are in dimensions 5 x 8 ft. by the height of the roof, which is hipped with about 2 ft. overhang, giving a little shelter up close to the house. The rest outside is a wooden frame covered with $\frac{3}{8}$ wire. The house is ceiled inside and painted white with cold water paint. The basins are enamelled white. The outside wire is painted black and the frame black. The roof is shingled and stained black. From the eaves downwards white boards are placed upright with round moulding over the seams for a distance of about 5 ft. from the ground, where a white round moulding runs around three sides of the house, and below this are old-fashioned long split shingles.

The house is heated by four 3-inch water pipes running low against the north wall and so arranged that they can be used in pairs or not, as necessary.

I planned the interior and let the architect, Mr. Oscar Blummer, frame around it as artistically as he could. The cost of the house was about nine hundred dollars. If I had it to re-build, the only improvements I would make would be to ceil it inside with hardwood and use wire glass and metal sash on the windows as the destructive bills of some of the cockatoos keep me busy patching it up.

I do not like a concrete house for birds. It might do in some places but it is too damp with us close to the water. It would be all right in the winter, when the heat is on, but in the spring and fall the birds would suffer. We keep the place comparatively cool. In the winter the temperature ranges from 50 to 60, and even if it gets below that it never seems to inconvenience the birds.

In winter I could not take a newly purchased bird which had probably been kept in a much warmer temperature, and turn him out suddenly in so cool a place, but birds that have been acclimatized are all the better for the low temperature.

The most essential thing for the birds is fresh air, and I allow them the outdoor flights from about the 10th of May to the last of October.

I feed the seed-eating birds on canary seed, hemp and sunflower and more or less dried wheaten bread, which I purchase by the quantity for chickens at 1.75 dol. per 100 lbs. They also have green food from the garden. The insect eaters are fed on ordinary mocking-bird food, Abraham's preserved yoke of egg, which I am obliged to import, and minced raw meat. I presume the total feed bill would average close to 10 dols. per month.

My gardener looks after the aviary and I have no regular keeper. My principal losses have been due to placing the wrong kinds of birds together, resulting in their killing each other, particularly at breeding time ; and to ever-eating and consequent fatty degeneration ; while a few are occasionally lost from injuries caused by striking their heads when frightened, particularly at night. On the whole, however, the losses are no greater than with chickens or any other domestic fowls.

Now, as regards the inmates, in the first flight there are, at present, three Cockateels (these nest readily in confinement), a pair of Crimson-winged and a female Red-rump Parrakeet, besides three Green Love-birds. In the second : Dominican Cardinals, Java Sparrows and a few Canaries. In the third : a pair of Leadbeater Cockatoos. In the fourth : Zebra Finches, Mannikins, Weaver Birds and a lot of other small Finches. The Zebra Finches have bred so abundantly that they outnumber the others three to one.

In the fifth : Budgerigars, or Australian Grass Parrakeets, of which I have bred a large number. For breeding places I first used cocoanut husks, imported from E. W. Harper, Wolverhampton, England, and latterly have been using the No. B logs made by Mr. Herman Scheid, Buren i., Westfalen, Germany, which can be imported for about 50c. apiece.

In the sixth flight there are a pair of Blue Mountain Lories, two Green Cardinals, an Indian Shama, and a lot of other small birds. The Blue Mountain Lories are spiteful with other parrots but they do not seem to pay much attention to the smaller birds.

In the seventh : A pair of Rosellas and a male Ring-neck

Parrakeet. I had two pairs of Rosellas, but this spring one of the cocks killed the other pair, and although the surviving hen laid eggs she did not hatch them.

In the eighth : A pair of Mynahs, a Malabar Mynah, a Green Barbet, a pair of Starlings, a Rose-coloured Pastor, another Shama, a Mexican Solitaire (a very fine singer by the way) and an Indian Drongo. The last is supposed to be a very delicate bird, but he has now been in good health for over a year.

In the ninth : A Red-vented Parrot and a male New Guinea Green Eclectus. The New Guinea Eclectus is a stupid bird, but I purchased him with the intention of procuring a mate which up to the present I have been unable to do.

In the tenth : A pair of Pennants and a female Slaty-headed Parrakeet. I lost the male through what was apparently sunstroke.

In conclusion let me say again that any one who is fond of birds will find the keeping of a private aviary such as I have described, a fascinating and inexpensive hobby, and that I shall be pleased to give any further advice I can on this subject to anyone desiring it.

This article has already appeared in the "New York Zoological Society Bulletin" and has kindly been sent to me by its author for publication in "Bird Notes," in response to my request for notes on American aviculture. —Ed.

A Holiday in the West Indies.

By A. Sutcliffe.

On Oct. 23rd, 1909, I sailed from Liverpool to New York, en route to Jamaica. I had intended visiting the New York Zoo, but owing to a rough passage, the Mauretania did not get in until Thursday morning, and my steamer down to Jamaica left on Saturday morning, so I was unable to see New York, as well as the Zoo, the latter being situated some distance from my Hotel. I reached Kingston on November the 4th, where I met my friend, who conveyed me to the Constant Spring Hotel, a beautiful Hotel situated at the foot of the Blue Mountains, with a pretty garden surrounding it ; it was now supposed to be the dry season, we however caught the remains of a cyclone, the day after I arrived, and had a week's rain, 120 inches fell in the seven days, and the damage done to roads and property was very great. Kingston is a

Turkey Buzzard or Vulture.

Photos by A. Sutcliffe.

A Native Birdcatcher, West Indies.

straggling place, and is now being rapidly rebuilt principally of ferro-concrete, which is supposed to withstand earthquake shocks. One of the peculiarites of Kingston is the number of goats and ducks kept by the peasants ; these wander about the streets and pick up a living the best way possible, feeding on orange, and banana peel, and on one occasion, I saw one devouring a sheet of newspayer (probably it was interested in the elections.)

The first birds to attract attention are the Turkey Buzzards or Turkey Vultures (*Catherles aura*) which are known locally as John Crows ; they are repulsive looking creatures, and roam the streets like barn-door fowls ; their total length is two-and-a-half feet, six feet from tip to tip of wings ; beak two-and-a-half inches long ; the upper mandibile hooked at the point, and the nostril a wide slit pieced through ; eyes dark and bright, the head and neck is covered with reddish wrinkled skin, beset with short dark hairs, the fore part bare to the breast bone ; lower part of body sooty brown ; back black ; tail about a foot long and rounded; the whole plumage is glossed with green-bronze and purple reflections. Mr. John Crow is not at all bashful, I have seen half a dozen walking about the streets at St. Andrews quite unconcerned, and have approached within six feet of them. I got a very fine snapshot of one on a wooden shanty, sunning himself, with wings outstretched, which I should like to have had reproduced here, but regret to say that my case of skins, insects, photos, notes, nests, etc., was missing when I landed at Southampton ; I am of the opinion it was put off at Barbadoes in error, and I hope to recover it shortly, but if this case is lost these notes will suffer. I can, of course, remember many incidents, but the names of the trees and plants, also of different fruits and seeds, I found the birds feeding upon, cannot be given : this is to be regretted, as I had hoped to give some information which might prove of practical use to our members.

The Turkey Vulture is strictly protected, as in fact are all the birds, except the Pigeons, and as the penalty is a fine of £5 for every bird killed, it is a risky thing to go bird shooting or catching.

Constant Spring Hotel is situated about 5½ miles inland from Kingston, and one morning a fowl was being killed in the kitchen of this Hotel, and I witnessed two Vultures swoop round the back of the Hotel and approach the lattice work which surrounds the kitchen yard ; they must have been attracted by the cries of the fowl. Much contention has arisen between naturalists, with respect to the olfactory powers of this bird ; in Waterton's Essays we learn that their food is carrion, in search of which they are always soaring in the air ; they have a wonderful sense of smell (says Catesby), no sooner is there a dead beast than they approach from all quarters. Gosse, in "Birds of Jamaica," gives instances of this Vulture's power of discovering putrid matter, also of their attacking a wounded animal. In Darwen's Journal we read it is a solitary bird and at most goes in pairs.

I have seen them soaring high in the air, on outstretched pinions, wheeling about with graceful undulating movements, and one can watch them for several minutes without noticing a single stroke of the wing ; their power of flight is very great, I tried to catch one in the street early one morning, it allowed me to approach within four feet, but when I attempted to seize it, I found it too quick for me. When rising they run along the ground with wings partly extended for some distance.

After making various enquiries respecting the birds of Jamaica, I was introduced to our esteemed member Mr MacKenzie to whom I am greatly indebted for many of the birds I sent home. Mr. MacKenzie is a great lover of birds, and has an aviary entirely devoted to Doves and Pigeons, where he frequently breeds the Bald-pate, Violet, and several other Doves ; he also has another aviary under his verandah. In one portion he keeps Budgerigars and other Paraquets, in the other portion Red-billed and Madagascar Weavers, Bishops, Cutthroats, Zebra Finches and various African Waxbills, etc., and in cages he keeps an English Goldfinch, Mocking Bird, and Canaries, etc.

There are a great many Doves in this Island, the commonest being the White-wings (*Turtur leucopterus*) Bald-pate or White crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*) the Pea Dove (Zenaida Pigeon), of all these I secured several pairs, thanks to the kindness and energy of Mr. Wareham, of Kingston. I only secured one Ring-tailed Pigeon (*Columba carribbea*) a ♀ ; they are very scarce and difficult to catch.

Most of the common Doves can be seen daily, feeding on a kind of small bean which grows on a bush and which I can only describe as a sort of wild Pea ; these bushes are very numerous, in some places there are scores of acres of them. The Passerine Ground Dove simply swarms all over the Island ; they are pretty little birds. When passing along the roads, one can put them up by scores. They fly very fast and straight, but not to a great distance, and soon alight again, either on a tree, or the ground.

I engaged some nigger boys to catch me some birds. They did bring me some, but when I learned that directly they catch a bird, which they do not kill, they pull out the wing and tail feathers, and break their legs to prevent escape (they brought many to me in this state), I at once stopped them catching on my behalf.

The most beautiful Dove is the Mountain Witch (*Geotrygon sylvatica.*) It is a ground Dove, and after enquiries, I found it to be almost extinct, owing to the ravages of the Mongoose. An expedition was dispatched to the Hills in search of this Dove, but without a single capture.

However they were lucky enough to secure some Partridge Doves (*Getrygon montana*) which are also in danger of extinction, the hens are especially difficult to obtain. I secured four true pairs, all of which landed safely home, and are doing very well. Mr. MacKenzie informs me he had only been able to obtain five hens in as many years ; they are pretty birds. Male : Upper parts chestnut, more or less flushed with a purple sheen, chiefly on neck and back ; breast purplish brown, softened to white on throat and chin ; a band of deep chestnut runs forward from the ear to the throat ; under parts and tail coverts buff white. Female ; Upper parts dark iridescent olive, a few of the feathers tipped with bay, head browner than in the male, primaries blackish, tail blackish, outer feathers tipped with white, throat whitish, breast and sides dusky, under parts reddish white. (Gosse.)

(*To be continued.*)

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

By G. A. Perreau, F.Z S.

(Continued from page 284, vol. viii.)

In accordance with the idea of having a little system, I follow the order and nomenclature of "The Fauna of British India—Birds," by Messrs. Blanford & Oates, an invaluable book to the Indian ornithologist. I hope to be forgiven for mangling their descriptions. Text-book descriptions are necessarily full of detail and are rather confusing without a good deal of practice in comparing them with skins or birds. Still one ought to have some sort of idea of the birds he is reading about.

CROWS, &c.

The Common Indian Crow, thank goodness, we do not get. Most Anglo Indian writers have a good deal to say about him, naturally as he is not quite the sort of bird that allows one to forget his presence. I have never heard of anyone taking home a hand-reared bird, but anyone requiring a pet of character and deviltry would find such a bird rather a revelation I fancy. He has no reason to be ashamed of his looks and lets you know it. We get his larger and less attractive relative, the Jungle Crow in small numbers. He nests in or near the compound every year, but may be dismissed as an "ornery cuss."

The magnificent Blue Magpie (*Urocissa flavirostris*) is very common higher up among the deodars and hill-oak, and to see a small party sweeping about at play in an open glade is a sight worth going some distance for. The nest is undomed, of sticks, and usually at the top of a pollarded oak, about 30 feet up and not often easy to spot. A pair nest every year on the Green Hill just outside the Station, where I have sometimes run down just-fledged youngsters, grand exercise it is too. I have never kept them long as one generally has to leave the Station in November for manœuvres. They did very well, but even hand-reared ones never seemed to become really tame and interesting, but I must own that they might have been given better opportunities of displaying their characteristics. I see them pretty freely advertised lately at £1 each, which struck me as very cheap having regard to their size, but of course their food during importation presents no difficulty.

A party of four or five has been quite a feature of the compound this winter, the first time I have seen them actually in the Station. It is certainly a bird for the aviary rather than the cage, and I thoroughly recommend it to those who like bright colours without gaudiness. Personally I confess to a weakness for gaudiness, and long tails and crests appeal to me greatly. A combination of these qualities prove almost irresistable, but, alas, I have to harden my heart against the charms of "soft-bills." I must also resist the temptation to digress here. I find that writing about birds is very like playing with plasticine; most of the above was written some time ago and I feel a keen desire to talk about any birds rather than crows, in the same way does the plasticine elephant somehow become a crocodile or some other beast equally unlike the intended one. Now, having got in my digression after all. I proceed with a rough description: head, neck, and breast, black; other lower parts, white; other upper parts, purplish blue picked out with white; tail above, blue tipped white; bill, yellow.

Length including 18-inch tail 26 inches. The tail is strongly graduated, the two middle feathers a good bit longer than the others.

The Indian Tree-pie (*Dendrocitta rufa*) is a smart jaunty bird, full of mischief and a confirmed nest-robber, judging from the excitement his appearance causes among small fry in the breeding season. He is rather a bird of the plains and foot-hills, but I have seen him as high as 4,500 ft. Head, neck, and breast, sooty brown; body plumage, light chestnut; wings, dark brown with a whitish patch; tail, grey, tipped black. Length 18 inches, tail up to 12½ inches. They ought to make nice pets and would doubtless be commoner at home were they not so common out here.

The Black-throated Jay (*Garrulus lanceolatus*), sometimes advertised at home as the Lanceolated Jay, is very common about the station in winter, going but a short way outside to breed. They are cheery noisy chaps and make excellent pets. They do not seem to descend to the foot hills, and I have seen them pretty high up in the winter. The nest is often quite low down. I have seen dozens at a time in the Tiretta Bazaar in Calcutta, presumably for export. Head and short crest, black; chin and fore-neck, black with white shaft streaks; tail and outer wing feathers, blue barred with black; inner tipped white; white patch on wing; remainder of plumage vinous grey, brighter in front.

The Himalayan Jay (*G. bispecularis*) is very like the English Jay. It keeps to the deodar zone where it is common. Some of its notes are very musical.

All the above go about in small parties and are noisy, except in the breeding season, when they go in pairs and are very quiet unless disturbed by intruders.

The Larger Spotted Nutcracker (*Nucifraga multipunctata*) I have only seen once or twice, high up in the deodars. It is distinctly a handsome bird and ought not to be very hard to keep as it appears to subsist chiefly on seeds and berries with a certain amount of insect food. General Osborne found them very fond of walnuts, Head and wings, black; rest of plumage, deep chocolate; all feathers except those on the head have a large white spot on them. Length 15 inches.

In early spring we sometimes see the Red-billed *(Graculus eremita)* and the Yellow-billed (*Pyrrhocorax alpinus)* Choughs. The former is the European bird. The latter is much smaller and has a short yellow bill and orange red legs. It is a smart cheeky bird rather like a Jackdaw in ways. Rook and Jackdaws are also sometimes seen on migration.

(To be continued.)

Tuberculosis in Birds.

By HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S., Kensington, W.

By tuberculosis we understand a disease characterised by tubercles found in various organs of the body and due to the bacillus of tuberculosis, also called the bacillus of Koch, who isolated and demonstrated it as the specific cause of the disease. All other nodular diseases not due to Koch's bacillus are termed false tuberculoses.

This disease attacks all classes of birds as well as every class of animal, domesticated or wild, when kept in confinement. It even attacks fishes, reptiles and amphibia. But of the domesticated animals it occurs more often in the ox than in any other. Next to the ox in relative frequency comes man, then the pig and afterwards the fowl, cat, dog, horse, rabbit, goat and, last of all, the sheep. The guinea-pig, although experimentally the easiest animal to induce it in, is rarely attacked spontaneously. The same might be said of the sheep, in which it does not appear spontaneously in one in five hundred-thousand. Of the wild animals in confinement the monkey heads the list.

Leaving out domestic poultry, the semi-domesticated fancy pheasant, the parrot and perhaps the pen-reared partridge, tuberculosis is a comparatively rare disease in wild birds kept in confinement. When it does occur in them it is usually seen in a collection confined in a Zoological Garden or large out-door aviary. It may, however, be encountered in every variety of bird, even the carnivorous. The Ostrich is not exempt. It has also been discovered in a hawk at liberty.

With the exception of the parrot it is oftener seen in the Gallinaceæ than in any other species. Perhaps in this case the method of feeding (from the ground) accounts for the frequency·

In cage-birds, with the exception of the Parrot, it is a very rare, if not almost an unknown disease. It is not rare in them because of their immunity but in consequence of the conditions under which most birds live in an isolated cage being unfavourable to its transmission. Experimentally they are very susceptible.

On the contrary, the reason it is comparatively common in the parrot is because, on the one hand this tribe is more susceptible to mammalian tuberculosis ; and, on the other the conditions for contamination are more favourable.

[To be continued.]

singly or in small parties. During the day they sleep on the ground, and if disturbed only flop round once or twice and then settle down again in, or as near as possible to, their original place. When the bird is resting on the earth the two pennants are stretched out along the ground, one on each side, at right angles to the bird's body. Their extraordinary wing formation gives them a characteristic and unmistakeable appearance when flying; the same thought comes first to my mind, so exactly do the two wing-rackets flickering up and down behind the flying bird resemble the movements of two excited Sparrows, trying to get in plenty of vicious and effective pecks at a fleeing and frightened foe.

A most graphic account of the courtship of these birds is given by Captain Boyd Alexander in his most interesting book, "From the Niger to the Nile," which I cannot resist quoting here. He says (Vol. II., p. 23), "It is interesting to watch this bird courting its mate. Just as dusk is coming on the female suddenly drops noiselessly on to the path from the adjoining bush. Immediately the male appears and alights right in front of her where she is sitting Then the long pinions are raised so that they droop over the head toward her. Should the female shift her position the male gives chase to alight once again like a featherweight in front of her."

Scotornis climacurus. **LONG-TAILED NIGHTJAR.**

Range. Senegambia, Nigeria, Soudan to Nubia. *(H.L.)*

This species, whose characteristic is the enormous lengthening of the two middle tail feathers, is much rarer in the Gambia than the preceding. I have seen single individuals for several nights running, once near Bathurst and once in Niumi, both near the coast, but have never come across them on any other occasion or further inland.

CORACIIDAE.

The Rollers, of which we have representatives of the two *genera*, *Coracias*, and *Eurystomus*, are among the most conspicuous of our Gambian birds, on account of the brilliant colours of their plumage, their fearlessness of man and the habit, which most of them have, of selecting the top of a bush or an outlying branch of a tree as a perch from which they can watch for their prey, and from which they are constantly flying heavily to the ground, to snap up some locust or other large insect, or perhaps a lizard or other reptile. At all times they are noisy birds, fond of uttering harsh croaks and cries, but more particularly is this the case during the breeding season, when both sexes spend much of their time sporting and tumbling in the air, courting and lovemaking with many a scream and buffet. They are commonly known to the English here as "Jays" or "Blue Jays," from their general superficial resemblance to the bird of that name at home. Their native names are KEER-KUTARONG (Mandingo) and BAKHAR (Joloff).

Coracias senegalensis. **SENEGAL ROLLER.**

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L*).

This is the commonest Roller in the Gambia, found everywhere and at all seasons. Although at certain times of the year they are much sought after by the native hunters for their skins (for which they get about sixpence apiece from the traders), they are generally by no means shy birds, though sufficiently cautious and intelligent to keep at a safe distance from anyone with a gun in his hands. During the dry season they are comparatively quiet, but from May onwards they become noisier and and more lively, and indulge more frequently in their rolling tumbling feats of aerial gymnastics, especially at the courting season, when they are almost all day sporting in the air together, at one moment locked in close embrace and grappling one with another, the next falling like stones, soon to disengage, to rise again and repeat the same performance, while all the time they are doing their best to drive one wild with their harsh screaming cries. At all times they are rather quarrelsome and attack boldly any bird, be it Hawk or other murdering ruffian, which may trespass on what they consider their rights. At bush-fires they follow the line of the flames, snapping up the crippled insects and reptiles, often from out of the very centre of the fire, and disputing with the Kites and Hawks for the possession of the choicer morsels. At such times one often sees as many as thirty or forty together, but on ordinary occasions they are found in dairs or singly, but wherever one may be in the bush, one cannot go far without at least one Roller being in sight. Their chief colours are brilliant light blue, chestnut and black, and they have noticeably forked tails, the outer feather on each side being elongated and tapered. The following description is that of a full-plumaged adult shot November 23rd, 1905.

Crown and nape, pale bluish green with a pale brown forehead and eye streak; back and mantle, pale chestnut; lesser wing-coverts, bright ultramarine blue; middle-coverts, Cambridge blue with a greenish tinge; cubitals, chestnut like the back; great coverts, clear Cambridge blue; basal halves of flight feathers the same; distal halves, ultramarine with black inner edges: rump, bright ultramarine; upper tail coverts also ultramarine but with Cambridge blue bases and narrow tips. The two central tail feathers are: above, greenish grey; the others (except the outer long ones), ultramarine at bases, Cambridge blue at ends, the amount of light blue increasing from within outwards; the external feather on each side (3½ inches longer than the others) is Cambridge blue with the central shaft and whole of the last 3½ inches, black. Below: chin, pale brown; cheeks and throat, greenish blue streaked with lighter: breast, abdomen and under tail coverts, clear Cambridge blue; under surface of tail like the upper, but the light blue extends rather further; under wing-coverts, bright Cambridge blue; under surface of flights like the upper, but the two blues are not quite so clear in colour; bill, black; legs and feet, greyish olive; irides, burnt sienna; length (to end of middle tail feathers), 12 inches.

C. cyanogaster. BLUE-BODIED ROLLER.

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

This, usually known here as the Brown-headed Roller, is much less common during the dry season than the Senegal Roller, but from May onwards its numbers increase, and during the rains (the breeding season) up to about the end of the year, I think the two species are about equally common. Their habits, flight and food are the same as those of their congeners, and although not possessing the extremely brilliant blues of the Senegal Roller, they are—with their pale brown heads contrasting so pleasingly with the rich dark blues of the body—also very handsome and attractive birds.

Description. Head, neck and breast, fawn-brown with silvery reflections on the crown, over the eyes and on the chin, so that in some lights these parts look silvery, in others (especially when seen at a distance and alive) fawn coloured. The front of the throat and breast are streaked with silvery white. Back and mantle, olive brown ; scapulars, darker ; rump and upper tail coverts, bright Prussian blue, the latter tinged with cobalt ; the tail, which does not extend beyond the tips of the closed wings, bright cobalt washed with Prussian blue, the outer feathers nearly wholly dark blue and black ; greater wing coverts, ultramarine with a metallic gloss ; basal halves of primaries and of outer secondaries, cobalt, forming a conspicuous broad alar bar ; external halves, Prussian blue ; inner secondaries, olive brown basally, blending with the scapulars, dark blue towards their extremities ; below bright prussian blue ; axilliaries and under wing-coverts, cobalt, the latter shaded with ashy blue ; edge of wing, dark indigo, almost black ; under surface of tail, cobalt with a greenish wash ; bill, black ; feet, yellow ; irides, dark sienna ; length, 13 inches.

C. naevius. **WHITE-NAPED ROLLER.**

Range. North-east and Equatorial Africa, Soudan, Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

A rather larger bird than the other two and by far the most Jay-like in appearance of the three, for when seen alive at a little distance its brown upper parts, blue-edged wings and whitish face markings give it quite the look of that bird ; but when examined closely the upper parts are found to be dull olive, though they look brown—a shade too almost exactly that of a Jay in certain lights, while below the colour is pinkish red streaked with white. In the rains it is very common, while a few remain with us throughout the year : it resembles its relations in habits and diet, but is not nearly such an acrobat on the wing as they are and much less aggressive and noisy. Just before the rains begin, when all the Rollers are specially excitable and quarrelsome, I have frequently seen one of these "Jay-like" Rollers being hunted about by one of the Senegal Rollers. One would have thought from their relative sizes that the driving would have been the other way. Their note too is not so raucous or quite so unpleasant as that of the others, and may be almost exactly represented by a repetition of the syllables "oo-ah, oo-ah."

The following description is that of a female (the sexes are alike) shot January 4th, 1906 :

Frontal band dirty white ; eyebrow clear white ; a few white feathers form a small nape-spot ; crown to below the white naye-spot, reddish lilac tinged with olive, each feather washed with olive ; mantle, lower nape and scapulars, olive, looking brown in certain lights ; lower back, mauve ; rump and upper tail-coverts, light purple. The two central tail feathers, dull oily green, the others dull blue with green edges diminishing in extent from within outwards. Wing coverts, clear mauve in bend of wing gradually merging into the reddish lilac of the greater coverts ; coverts at carpal joint and edge of the wing there ultramarine ; wing-quills duller blue shading into black at inner edges. General colour below pinky brown streaked with white; chin shows a few whitish feathers; throat, sides neck, breast and sides, brown with distinct white streaks, the latter getting broader and more diffuse towards the abdomen, which is a more pinky brown with hardly any indication of streaks; thighs, dull mauve; under wing-coverts, pale reddish merging into whitish; under surface of flights, whitish with grey terminal portions. Bill, black; feet, dirty yellow-ochre. Iris, dark brown. Length, 14 inches.

Eurystomus afer. BROAD-BILLED ROLLER.

Range. Tropical Africa. *(H.L.)*

A smaller bird than the typical Rollers and very differently shaped, being built somewhat on the lines of a big-bodied Swallow with a broad triangular bill and a very wide gape. They are usually found in parties of 20 or more (I have frequently seen flocks of upwards of a hundred) in places where there are large trees, the upper branches of which are their favourite perches, and round the tops of which they love to float and wheel in the air, like large Swallows, as soon as the cool of the sunset hour approaches, often filling the upper air with their shrill chattering and continuing their flight far into the night, especially if there is a moon, to retire eventually to roost together in the upper branches of some large tree. In the mornings, too, till the sun gets hot, one often sees flocks of them on the wing, but during the heat of the day they are quiescent. Like the Senegal Rollers their skins have a certain value to the native hunters, as they fetch about 50 centimes apiece at the French ports. The general colour above is cinnamon brown: rump and upper tail-coverts, dull blue; wings, blue; lateral tail feathers, bright blue shading into dark blue at ends, middle feathers, dull blue washed with black. Eye-brow slightly tinged with mauve. Below from face to belly, a lovely purple or reddish mauve; lower abdomen, inner webs of under surface of wings and under tail-coverts, pale blue. Bill, yellow; legs, greenish brown. Iris, hazel. Length 10 inches.

[*To be continued.*]

BRITISH BIRDS.

The Dartford Warbler.

(*Melizophilus dartfordiensis*). Continued from page 89.

By J. Frostick.

CHAPTER II.—IN CAPTIVITY.

Having described the Dartford Warbler in freedom it will probably be of more interest to our members as Bird keepers to add a few notes on its treatment in captivity. With my unique experience with this bird I can do so with some authority.

When I brought my three tiny little birds home I felt filled with pride that I possessed something at last, that I and others had tried to obtain for years without success. They were only three little brown baby birds in their nest feathers, two of them had broken their tails and they looked very ordinary, but when a well-known exhibitor came along and offered me their weight in gold for them I preferred to keep my little mites. Now they have grown and moulted out into their full glory, with every feather on their little bodies perfection. These are as their beautiful picture proves very handsome and attractive birds.

Keeping, as I have done for years, delicate warblers of other species, tits and wrens, I never had any doubts as to being able to keep them alive; all that I was afraid of was that they would probably damage their long tails. Like most other birds they did not agree long together and to avoid all risks I put each bird in a separate cage, where they have plenty of room to fly about and the result has been excellent. They are always in "show condition," and are apparently as happy as "sand boys."

Mr. Goodchild when sketching the birds spent several hours in front of their cages, and can bear me out in my statement.

My birds are perfectly tame and will come to the wires of their cages and peer into one's face and peck my finger, but they are exceedingly active, ever on the move -darting from one perch to the other with lightening rapidity Their acrobatic feats are extraordinary, they love the sunshine and on bright days are unusually lively, erecting the head feathers into a crest and cocking their tails bolt upright with a sidelong jerk. swelling their little throats with gladsome song or uttering their scolding note cha-cha-cha-cha as they somersault from one perch to another. I have kept every species of British cage birds proper, and many other kinds not recognized as such, but none have ever given me more pleasure than these.

My birds were hand-reared from the nest, and all are males. They were fed on live ants' eggs principally, with a few mealworms added. When they could feed themselves they were gradually accustomed to insectivorous food of my own mixing, which is composed of good dried ants' eggs, dried "flies," &c., made crumbly moist with grated carrot and a small portion of hard-boiled egg, first pressed through a fine sieve. This is their usual stock food, but when the summer arrives they shall have, in common with the rest of my birds live ants' eggs, which are invaluable for all insectivorous birds; mealworms they scarcely ever see, and they frequently refuse to eat them when offered, but they are very fond of spiders and house flies, which are much better for them. Having noticed that my Sedge, Reed, Marsh, and other warblers thrived best when given ripe fruit in addition to their insect food, I gave them some banana, which I found they ate greedily, and since then they always have fruit of some sort in their cages. They are very fond of ripe William pears and elderberries. I have come to the conclusion that fruit is essential to their well-being, and is quite as important an item of food as insects. They bathe freely, have wintered in a cold room, and in my opinion are quite as hardy as the common wren, a specimen of which I have moulted three times in a cage, and looks as if it will live to moult many more times. That they are desirable cage birds is without question, and some day, when I can procure a female it is my ambition to try and induce them to breed in captivity

Book Notices and Reviews.

The Birds of the British Islands, by Charles Stonham, C.M.G., F.R.C.S. F.Z.S., with illustrations by Lilian M. Medland, F.Z.S. Part xvi. Grant Richards, Ltd.

It is needless to say that this part (which brings Vol. iv. to an end), is in no way inferior to its forerunners. Miss Medland, as usual, is quite happy in her interpretation of her subjects, while Mr. Stonham's fullness of detail, lucidity, and accuracy, leave nothing to be desired.

One of the most interesting articles is that on the Ruff, which is delineated most charmingly in five of its courting attitudes with the Artist's now well known skill. Nests of this rare bird have been found so recently as twice in 1902, and photographs were obtained of a nest in Norfolk in 1907 by Miss Turner. Of the courtship we learn that :—

> "In the spring, at early dawn, the males assemble at a chosen spot, which is frequented year after year, where they 'hill' as it is termed. This is an open and slightly elevated part of the marsh, to which the Reeves usually repair to wait the issue of the mock battles indulged in by those contending for their favours. The males are very much in earnest and behave in the most ludicrous manner, but spar rather than fight, and rarely inflict any damage on each other. When sparring, the ruff is raised and spread so that it acts as a shield, the head is lowered, the neck stretched out, and the bill pointed forwards, much in the same manner as game-cocks prepare to fight. At the same time the wings are slightly spread from the body and the half expanded tail quivers with excitement. Sometimes the bird remains motionless with its ruff raised and the bill pointing perpendicularly downwards, touching, or nearly touching the ground, and may thus remain for a considerable time ; but should a rival appear, it quickly flies up and indulges in mimic warfare with the intruder."

This quotation by no means exhausts what our Author has to say about this bird, but it will suffice to shew with what fullness and attention to detail he has fulfilled his task, while writing with that terseness which is the soul of real literature.

The other birds dealt with in this number are the Curlew-Sandpiper Purple Sandpiper, Knot, Sanderling, the Common-, Wood- and Green-Sandpipers, the Red Shank, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, the Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits, the Common Curlew, and the Whimbrel.

Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in cage and aviary.—Cassell & Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part I. of this practical and interesting serial is to hand, and gives promise of being very comprehenstve and should be in the library of every bird lover and keeper. It is well illustrated both in colour and black and white. It is edited by S. H. Lewer, and the various sections of the work will be from the pens of J. Robson, Dr. A. R. Galloway, S. H. Vale, and others; while the coloured plates are to be from the brushes of A. F. Lydon and E. F. Bailey. The frontispiece of this part is an excellent coloured plate figuring the Linnet, Lesser Redpole, Siskin, and Bullfinch; the black and white illustrations are numerous and varied. There is a foreword from the Editor, an introductory chapter, and Dr. A. R. Galloway commences his story of the History of the Canary. It is well got up and the part is full of interest, and it would appear that the object of its authors—"to interest and practically help bird-keepers in the successful pursuit of their hobby"—will be fully realised. The work is to be completed in 18 monthly parts.

Editorial.

Hooded Parrakeets (*P. cucullatus*). Will those members who have acquired this species, carefully note and put on record the plumage of the female, and also repeat this after they have moulted? Also, will those who possess skins of the Golden-shouldered Parrakeet (*P. chrysopterygius*) carefully describe the plumage of the female? If in possession of more than one skin, will they kindly compare same and note any variation?

Foreign Birds: I much regret that I have been unable to include an instalment in this issue, but the series will be resumed in May issue.

Cuban Trogon: In our last issue the scientific name was given as "*Myiophoneus temmincki*," which is incorrect; it should be *Priouotelus temnurus.* I must apologise for so careless an error and cannot imagine how it has crept in.

Correction: Captain Perreau desires me to state that Hanging Parrakeets are not found in and about the Station (Bakloh), and that the notes were intended to appear separately and *not under* the heading "Birds in and about the station (Bakloh)." I regret that under the stress of winding up Vol. viii. the error occurred.

Errata: On page 36, 1st line for "It was indeed a beautiful species," read It is indeed............

On page 36, line 19, for "*levcœephala*" read *leucocephala.*

On page 38, line 16, for "Red Rossella" read Red Rosella.

On page 39, line 18, for "very fine Bickenos Finch and Gouldian Finches," read very fine Bicheno and Gouldian Finches.

On page 40, line 25, for "Silver-eared Messias," read Silver-eared Mesias.

On page 66, line 8, for "rumps" read rump.

On page 91, line 7 from bottom, for "*anlis*" read *analis.*

Correspondence.

Brazilian Hangnests, &c. Sir,—As there has been much written lately in praise of the Brazilian Hangnest, I think that perhaps the following notes of my experience with one of these birds may be of some interest. Though, I also consider them to be most clever and interesting birds, still, as my experience will prove, individuals at any rate are extremely dangerous when placed with other birds.

I bought the bird in question, a very fine specimen of its kind (the pale yellow variety) from a dealer about two years ago. I turned it out in an aviary 33ft. x 5ft. x 10ft., divided off from another aviary of equal size, containing finches, wax-bills, small tanagers, etc., by a wire partition, and containing besides itself such birds as hawfinches, cardinals, grosbeaks, the larger tanagers and weavers, two pairs of yellow budgerigars, and an ordinary English robin, which I found impossible to keep in my aviary owing to its bloodthirsty propensities.

All went well for about three months, after which time I began to find first a Pine Grosbeak and then at intervals of about a week, other birds, all killed in a precisely similar manner, viz.: An enormous hole was neatly excavated (I can think of no better word to suit the case) from the top of the head, and the legs were also in every case badly mauled; on two or three occasions also, I found near the partition in the finch aviary a small bird similarly roughly handled.

I first of all suspected mice or rats, as I had killed one of the former outside the aviary quite recently, but a close inspection of the aviary showed it to be impossible for these pests to have gained an entrance.

The murders, however, continued, and I now began to suspect the Hangnest, though a dealer to whom I sent some of the bodies, assured me that the robin was the culprit, though this was manifestly absurd, as it was of course not nearly powerful enough to inflict the injuries described.

Though suspicious, however, and keeping a close watch on the bird I could discover nothing for a long time, as it always appeared the most harmless of birds whenever I watched, it never so much as looked at another bird. Of dead bodies thrown in it took no notice, though if left there overnight they were always partially devoured by morning.

At last, after losing several other birds, the Robin was killed, finally disposing of the dealer's theory. I was now beginning to despair of finding the culprit, as though I had a boy keeping watch throughout the day, he could discover nothing. At length one Sunday, as I was watching I saw the whole drama enacted before my eyes. The Hangnest, which up till then had been on its very best behaviour, suddenly swooped down from a perch, exactly like a hawk, on to a Crossbill that was feeding on the ground below it, seized the unfortunate bird with its claws and hammered viciously at its head. Before I could interefere the Crossbill was practically dead, so I put it out of its misery, left it there, and went out to await developments. As soon as I had left the aviary the Hangnest swooped down again, seized the dead bird and hammered it on the head as before ; after doing this for a few minutes it flew off with the bird to a perch and then proceeded to devour it, tearing at it exactly like a Shrike or other predaceous bird, and attacking, so far as I could see, chiefly the head and abdomen. Needless to say that after this I kept the bird apart from the rest and caged it by itself, when it made a very delightful pet. It is still very fond of meat of any kind, but much prefers a bird or even a mouse to anything else.

Another similar case was that of a Virginian Cardinal, which suddenly developed the habit of killing birds and of completely devouring their heads, though in this case the rest of the body was rarely touched. Luckily on this occasion I discovered the culprit before very much damage had been done.

I should like to know if any other members have had similar experiences. G. E. RATTIGAN.

[No matter how tame they may be, the majority of the Hangnests are dangerous company for other birds, even for species *much* larger than themselves. I know of one instance in which an Imperial Nicobar Pigeon was badly mauled by a Hangnest, and its life only saved by its owner's interference. A close watch should be keqt on all species of Hangnests till their demeanour is ascertained, no matter what company they are in.—ED.]

Cross Mating of Blue-Mountain Lorikeets and Violet-necked Lory. Sir,—It may be of interest to our members to hear of the nesting of a Violet-necked Lory and Blue Mountain Lorikeet, so far as it has gone, which however, you will say is not very far at present. Some weeks ago when they began to evince an unwonted interest in cocoa-nut husks (the particular property of the Budgerigars), I saw they meant business. I fitted up two little oyster barrels, thinking they would be the very thing, and placed them in different positions in the aviary ; but they would have none of them, and continued to spend their time, when not engaged in bullying the other occupants, in trying to get in one particular husk, the aperture of which was, of course too small for them. Lories do not seem to have the power of "whittling" like others of the parrot tribe. I might have cut away the opening for their accommodation, but I recognized the fact, that if they managed to get in they could not possibly turn round, and yet they would not even look at the nice little barrels provided for them. Then the happy thought occurred to me so saw off the end of their beloved cocoa-nut husk, widen the opening so that I could just get my hand in, fasten it on the end of the barrel, and hang it in exactly the same position among the branches of the trees. The ruse succeded, they proudly imagined they had at length achieved their ends, and I had the satisfaction of seeing them both inside before the end of the day. That would be quite three weeks ago, but matters got "no forarder," as though they were in and out all day long, they always tucked themselves up close together on their usual perch in the inner aviary at night time. So things went on until last Monday, March 21st, when they absented themselves for the first time, and spent the night together in their husk! The following morning there was an egg, but alas, it was on the ground, and chipped, so that it would have been of no use to replace it. It was very disappointing, but I hope by this time there may be another in the nest, perhaps two. The egg is very large for so small a bird as the Violet-neck, which is of course a very small mate for the Blue Mountain. The antics of the latter must be seen to be believed, he seems as though he could hardly contain himself for pride and self-importance. They bully a pair of Eclectus, double their size, and even mobbed an Amazon when it had taken refuge, as it imagined, on my shoulder. I have ventured to write at this length because I have an idea this is the first record of the nesting of the Violet-necked Lory, and certainly of this particular cross.

March 24th. (Mrs.) E. A. H. HARTLEY.

Black-cheek Lovebirds. A Warning! Sir.—As it may very well happen that many of our members are not posted up in the habits, manners, and customs of Black-cheeks, the following word of warning at the start of the breeding season may not come amiss. Into one of my larger aviaries, I put as a start, two pairs of Black-cheeks, and these promptly proceeded to establish themselves—one pair in a cocoanut husk, the other in a log nest (the log nesters of my previous articles).

Both pairs made nests, and the pair in the cocoanut husk had five eggs which had been incubated about 10 days, when, in an evil moment, I introduced three pairs of Budgerigars into this aviary, providing them with six husks for their use, and placing these as far off as possible from the Black-cheeks.

One morning I found all the eggs from the cocoanut husk pair of Black-cheeks on the floor of the aviary, and one of the cock budgerigars with a severely bitten leg.

The obvious conclusion to be arrived at is that the Budgerigars "fancied" the Black-cheek husk—that a battle royal ensued in which the intruders got severely mauled, and what is of more consequence, my first nest of Black-cheeks lost. Of course I at once removed the Budgerigars, and peace now reigns.

In order to provide accommodation for the Budgerigars I was obliged to turn a miscellaneous lot of finches in with the Black-cheeks, and they are quite a happy family. Moral—Don't put Black-cheek Lovebirds and Budgerigars in the same aviary. HAYWARD W. MATHIAS.

Month's Arrivals.

The well known dealer, A. E. Jamrach, has recently had quite an inflow of rarities and uncommon species, including the following :—

Victorian Crowned Pigeons.
Nutcrackers.
Black-cheeked Colies
Reddish Egrets.
Maximillian's Parrot.
Tufted Ducks, from China *(F. cristata).*
Madagascar Larger Tree Ducks *(D. major).*
Lear's Macaw.
Alpine Choughs.
Red-cheeked Colies.
Whisling Herons *(S. cyanocephahm)*
White-faced Whistling Ducks *(D. nidvata).*

Other dealers, DeVon, Hamlyn, Willson, and others, are offering the following among others :—

Black and Red Headed Gouldian Finches.
Grass Finches in variety.
Yellow-wing Sugar Birds.
Yellow-bellied Troupial.
Blue-bearded Jays.
Green Glossy Starlings.
Long-tailed Glossy Starlings.
Blyth's Starling.
Hume's Mynahs.
Wandering Tree Pie.
Sulphury Tyrant.
Hooded Siskins.
Peach-faced Lovebird.
Greater Blue Shrike.
St. Thomas' Conures.
White Quill Dove.
Bleeding Heart Pigeons.
Plumed Ground Doves.

Claims upon our space compel us to refrain from any comment on the respective species.

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent ; this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when they are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

Mr. Gray will be willing to examine living birds (including poultry, game, aviary, and cage-birds), and give advice as to the treatment of any disease they may have, for a fee of 5s. each bird, the owner taking all risks and paying the carriage both ways.

Gouldian Finch ♂ (Chas. H. Row). Cause of death, fatty degeneration of liver.

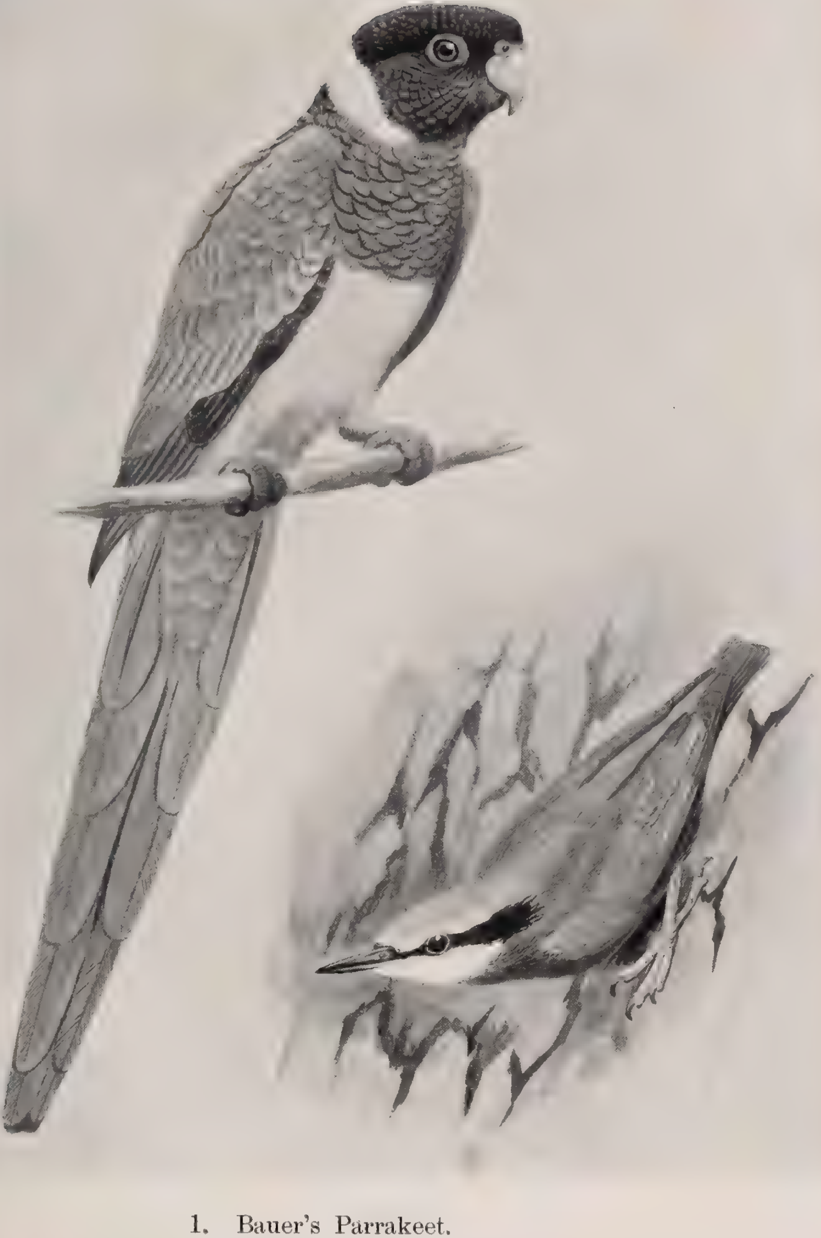
White-cheeked Conure, ♂ (Mrs. Beatrice Croysdale). Cause of death, inflammation of bowels.

Gouldian Finch, ♂ (Lady Kathleen Pilkington). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Violet Tanager, ♀ (Lady Kathleen Pilkington). There were some small nodules, resembling fig-seed, at the apices of lungs and root of bronchi.

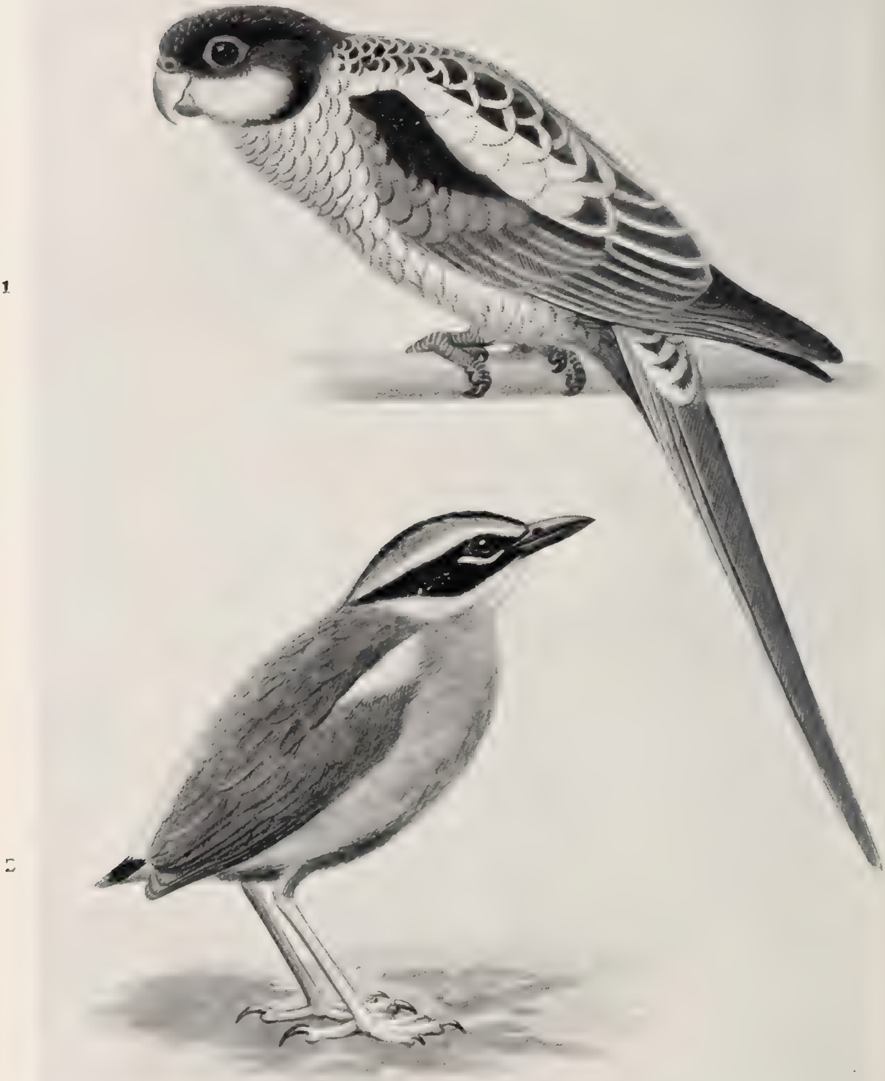
Answered by Post.—The Hon. Lady Harvey, Mr. H. W. Mathias, Mrs. Cunliffe, and Dr. P. Gosse (Agouti).

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C V.S.



1. Bauer's Parrakeet.
2. Indian Nuthatch.

Drawn from living specimens in Mr. Millsum's collection by H. Goodchild.



1. Brown's Parrakeet.
2. Bengal Pitta.

Drawn from living specimens in Mr. O. Millsum's collection by H. Goodchild.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Transfer of a Choice Collection.

By H. GOODCHILD, M.B.O.U.

From one source or another, most of our readers will have heard of the fact that our esteemed member, Mr. O. Millsum, has departed from our shores to take up special duties on the continent. There seems, however, to be some misapprehension as to his status, as his object and position have been somewhat misrepresented in one or two of the accounts of the change which have appeared in print. Mr. Millsum, who is going into the special service of Mr. Pauvvel, of Everberg, near Brussels, will take the responsibility for the welfare of upwards of forty aviaries of one kind and another, which, when completed, will contain the finest collection of birds in the world; but this will not be his whole and sole interest in his new surroundings, as he will at least keep in touch with his old friends and the interests they have in common with himself in his native Britain. At the beginning of April, I had the pleasure of staying several days under his hospitable roof, and had unlimited opportunity of seeing the fine series of birds which is to be added to the already superb collection formed by Mr. Pauvvel. Some of these birds are already well known, as they have been shown in public at the various exhibitions held during the season just passed, but as the collection includes many which have not been exhibited, it may be of interest to our readers in general, if some account is given of the rarer or more beautiful species.

Foremost amongst them stands the famous Hunstein's Bird of Paradise, the only one the general public has ever had the opportunity of studying at close quarters outside the Zoo, and the only one at all that I remember seeing in perfect condition and in full breeding plumage. Since this bird was last exhibited (at the Crystal Palace in February) a mate has been found for it, and I had the rare pleasure of seeing a pair of these splendid birds together, and moreover, had the favour of having each in turn placed in a show cage so that I could see the detail to my satisfaction. As a coloured plate is in course of preparation for BIRD NOTES and in addition the bird has been described by our esteemed editor, for the benefit of those who had not the good fortune to see it, I forbear to describe the male bird, but as the female has not been described in our magazine that I know of, I may give it a few words. The general size and shape are about the same as those of the male, that is, somewhat those of a Starling, but heavier, but she has none of the plumes or "furnishings" that characterise the male bird. General colour, nut brown, the lower surface being nearly white and closely barred with brown markings. The beak is the same bluish lilac as the male's and the feet also, but they are rather deeper in hue.

When I was at Swindon (April 1st to 6th inclusive) the male Hunstein's Bird of Paradise had already begun his moult, and on the third day of my visit, he cast both his long laterally curled tail wires. Nevertheless, I did not see any sign of his donning any plumage other than that we had seen him in at the Horticultural Hall and the Crystal Palace. The female bird did not seem to be moulting at this period at all.

The near neighbour, under my host's roof, of the Hunstein's Birds of Paradise, was a *Coracias* or Roller, from Celebes, a beautiful bird, which, when it opened its wings, bore a resemblance to some beautiful tropical butterfly. This particular species resembles the Indian Roller, a coloured plate of which appeared in an early volume of BIRD NOTES, and like that beautiful species seems conscious of its beauty, and frequently, while I was studying its beautiful neighbours—the Birds of Paradise—showed its lovely light and deep blue primaries, by drooping its wings in the same way that I had seen the Indian species do. At my request, drawings were made which I hope may eventually appear in our magazine. To be seen to advantage, such a bird should have an open flight, and then, in bright sunlight, it would display its lovely colours while taking a sun bath.

The unfortunate calamity which caused the death of the Black-winged Lory, left Mr. Millsum undaunted, and his series of pollen-eating birds was finer on the occasion of my last visit, than when I first saw them. When one knows that Mr. Pauvvel takes especial interest in Parrakeets, one does not wonder that Mr. Millsum had enriched his collection with several choice species of these charming and lovely tropical birds. Foremost amongst them for beauty may be placed the Hooded Parrakeets (*Psephotus cucullatus*), a beautiful pair of which were exhibited by Mr. Millsum at the Horticultural Hall in November last. At the time of my visit, there were three pairs in Mr. Millsum's care, but I believe that two of the pairs were intended for another of our members—Mr. Willford, if I recollect rightly. They seem to be uncommonly delicate birds, and despite the greatest care and attention, one of the female birds died during my visit, and another looked as if it might also succumb. There was one pair however, which looked to me to be in the pink of health and condition, and this particular pair had, I believe, been in their owner's care for a considerable time but were eventually to enrich the Everberg aviaries.

Several specimens of Brown's Parrakeet (*Platycercus brownii*) were there, and as with the Hooded Parrakeets, there was one pair particularly fine, in both markings and condition, and one of this pair appears on the plate which accompanies this article.

A pair of Green-naped Lorikeets, in faultless condition were amongst the birds which testified to the valuable qualities of the "B.C." food, now well-known and associated with the name of my host, but of all the pollen-eating species—the "brush-tongued" Lories and Lorikeets of the ornithologist—the species which interested me most was the "Yellow-backed" or Ceram Lory. From the time I saw these birds, in the possession of our esteemed member, Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, they had been prime favourites with me, and although something of the glamour had worn off these birds, as a species new to me, when I saw the specimens at Swindon, probably if I had had my choice of all the birds in that room, the Ceram Lories would have been those that I should have chosen. The male especially was a beautiful deep scarlet-breasted fellow, as interesting in his ways as these charming birds generally are ; they have been well called the monkeys of the parrot tribe.

Probably the most "out-of-the-way" bird in the whole series, was the Indian Nuthatch, a smaller and deeper coloured species than our own, and quite as interesting in his habits. His cage was placed right in the middle of the room and the artificial lights were not convenient, but with his characteristic consideration, Mr. Millsum arranged a light to illuminate the Nuthatch's entire cage, and I was able to make the studies for the plate with satisfaction and ease to myself, and without unduly disturbing the bird.

One of the rarest, and certainly one of the drollest species in the collection was the Purple-capped Lorikeet, a Southern Australian species only recently imported. The writer had an opportunity (thanks to Mr. Robbins) of studying these birds when they first came over, but at Swindon he had a better opportunity, as the birds were nearer a good light and were now fast recovering from the effects of importation. We saw the two birds rolling over on the floor of the cage, playing with each other like puppies. In feeding they seemed quite indifferent to the attitudes they were in and fed as readily when hanging head downwards, as when in a normal position.

Their opposite neighbour in the birdroom was a specimen of the Bengal Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*), and not yet in the condition which we usually term exhibition condition, but in good health, for all that. As being an out of the way bird, and one moreover not always to be got when it was wanted (as an " Artist's model " I know to my cost), I took the opportunity to place its portrait in a set which was to be fairly representative of the various types in a choice collection.

The last of the four birds chosen to be depicted was an unusually fine specimen of Bauer's Parrakeet. Had circumstances permitted, this particular individual undoubtedly would have cultivated my acquaintance in a very direct manner by biting me, for it made decided efforts to get at me and I should have been sorry for myself had I been within range of its beak. The first individual of this species I drew was very friendly, and once it had got to know one, was always ready to greet me with cheerful whistle and chirrup. The Swindon bird however, though exceptionally good in colour and in perfect health, did not seem a good tempered bird.

Two other rare and choice Parrakeets were specimens of the Blue-banded Grass Parrakeet, olive green birds with a blue band through the lores. These were shy and I had to be quiet when drawing them, as I felt sympathetic for such gentle looking and seemingly timid little creatures.

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*Many Lorikeets, the Red-naped especially, indulge in the same frolics.—Ed.

Much more might be written of this fine collection but I must reserve further remarks until our next issue.

[To be continued.]

The Aviaries and Birds at Benham Valence.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(Continued from page 100.)

Plumbeous Redstart (*Ryacornis fuliginosus*). A very fine male represents this species, one of three which Capt. Perreau brought over in May, 1908, one of which passed into my possession and which is still living. It is also known as the Water Robin and Water Redstart. It has a pleasing robin-like song and in a state of nature captures most of its food at the edge of running water. It is a typical Redstart both as to contour and motion. He has a most entertaining way of flicking his tail up and down and also opening out the feathers laterally fan-wise, and is a fine example of perpetual motion. Its plumage is plumbeous-blue, with the upper tail coverts and tail deep rufous-chestnut. A full account (with photo) was given in vol. vii. *Bird Notes ante* page 102.

Grey-winged Ouzels (*Merula boulboul*): A very fine pair in excellent condition, which were also brought over by Capt. Perreau and certainly judging by appearance should breed this season—they attempted to do so last but got no further than eggs. They are handsome birds, both male and female, the former is a fine songster. The species, however, has been fully described in Vols. vii. and viii. of *Bird Notes*, to which I must refer readers. There are few birds more interesting, attractive or handsome than this species, however gorgeous their apparel may be.

Hermit Thrush (*Turdus pallasi*). These interesting and beautiful birds, which range over North America, are very difficult to procure now owing to the U.S.A. bird protection laws, and Mr. Astley is indeed to be congratulated on such a possession. The upper surface is warm rust-brown, the under surface is white with dusky areas and a few dark brown striations; the eye is large, very beautiful and limpid. I cannot do better here than extract a few notes from Mr. Astley's account of this species in the "Avicultural Magazine" for April, 1909, "I am quite in love with my Hermits, of which I have five. Graceful in "their movements, they are also extremely fearless and gentle, as well as "apparently hardy in captivity, for two of mine have passed the winter in "an out-door avairy, and I have seen them bathing when the sun was "setting on a gloomy afternoon in December or January. They keep "themselves in beautiful condition, looking sleek and compact. In "January one commenced to sing, of course he sang *sotto voce*, but there "were the sweet pure tinkling notes and stanzas; short stanzes following "quickly one upon another, yet uttered very deliberately; a voice quite "unlike any of our English birds.............As a single cage pet I can imagine "no bird more charming in every way. They are very steady in a cage "and do not knock their tail feathers about as is so often the case with "Nightingales."

"My Hermits are fed on Mr. P. F. M. Galloway's Mixture, but like all "insectivorous birds, fresh insect food is necessary for their welfare; not "many mealworms, but cockroaches, gentles, flies, spiders, wood lice, etc., "and also fruit. They are very fond of grapes, skinned and cut into "pieces, which can be mixed with their every day food."

WOOD THRUSH (*Turdus mustelinus*): A very beautiful and attractive species, one or more of which are to be seen at the present time in the Western Aviary at the Zoo. Mr. Astley's birds were very fit, very tight and clean in feather, and beautifully marked specimens of a lovely species. Like *T. pallasi* it is a N. American species. The birds were very tame and confiding, hopping quite close to you when in the aviary, giving ample opportunity for observation. From "North American Birds," by J. Nehrling, I extract the following account of their wild life:

"It is found chiefly in low damp woodlands which are thickly covered "with undergrowth, and prefers for settlement the shady interior to the "noisy and busy neighbourhood of man. Here one can hear the wonderful, flute like song from early dawn until the fall of the evening twilight."

"In the mountains of North Carolina and elsewhere, it loves to nest "in the grand evergreen rhododendrons. The Wood Thrush rarely appears "in its nothern home before the middle of May—often some days later— "at the time when the first flower-buds open upon the apple trees."

THE AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*): This is another very handsome North American Thrush, which is also known as the Red-breasted Thrush.

It is a very beautiful species, with dark ashy-grey upper surface, almost black at the top of the head; throat, white with black striations; breast, rich rufous-chestnut; abdomen and under-tail coverts, white.

This species nests quite readily in an aviary and has done so on several occasions at the London Zoo and successfully reared the young.

Its habits and general demeanour, when taking exercise or foraging for food, are very similar to those of our indigenous Blackbird.

Mr. Astley's birds were fine and well marked specimens in exquisite plumage, with not a feather out of place.

BLUE BIRDS (*Sialis sialis*): How a sight of these lovely birds brings back to one's memory the times when they were comparatively common and to be cheaply obtained, while now, alas, if a few do happen to leak through, almost any price can be obtained for them by their fortunate possessor. They are equally appreciated in their native country. Mr. C. W. Beebe has written more than once:

> "That to write of these birds is like attempting to describe the face of "a dear friend, and that in the latitude of New York they are to be met "with every month in the year—that their call note has been well named "the " Violet of Sound."

Several of our members have bred this species, though I never got farther than newly-hatched fledgelings, but it is twelve or more years since this species adorned my aviary. They specially appeal to the aviculturist, for they have great beauty (bright lazuline blue above and reddish chocolate below), are good songsters, ready to nest and readily adapt themselves to the conditions of aviary life. Mr. Astley's two pairs were in exquisite condition—a sight to feast the eyes upon.

ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH (*Geocichla citrinus*): Another uncommon but well-known species, of great beauty and in possession of all those traits which go to make the ideal aviary bird. Mr. Astley's two true pairs and an odd male were fit and in beautiful feather. This species has proved long lived at the London Zoo, where specimens are usually to be seen in the Western Aviary. They are grand songsters, very tame and confiding and not difficult to cater for—they require some good insectile mixture, live insects and ripe fruit.

The body plumage is orange with the wings and tail dull blue.

The time should not be distant when this fine species should be bred in captivity, and, should consider Mr. Astley very likely to achieve this distinction during the present season.

BLUE CUBAN MOCKING THRUSH: Thrushes are favourites with Mr. Astley and this species is a large handsome bird, principally blue, dull in plumage in certain lights and again in others really brilliant. I did not hear its song, but Mr. Astley informs me it is very fine. Even as a single bird it was of great interest and I was glad to have the opportunity of seeing this species alive for the first time. I probably have seen it before at the Zoo, but not to take any note thereof.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*). This is another species which the U.S.A. bird protection laws practically exclude from importation. It was never common in the early days of aviculture, like the Blue Bird, but yet could not be termed rare, and most prominent aviculturists of the "old school" have kept this species, but in those days aviculturists were not so numerous as they are now. It is a typical Grosbeak and of a very fine appearance, the white underparts serving to bring out and enrich, as it were, the bright rose-coloured breast. The birds were perfect and our esteemed member will have our best wishes for luck in breeding this species during the breeding season 1910.

FAIRY BLUE BIRD (*Irena turcosa):* The brilliancy of the colouration, etc., of this unique pair of birds simply defy description. The photo which appeared in our last issue gives a general indication of form, size and the colour arrangement—the light areas being a brilliant glistening blue, and the dark portion rich velvety black. This pair of birds have been out of doors all the winter; there is, however, a shelter shed (aviary B) with hot water service, attached to their flight. One is at a loss for words to fitly eulogise so exquisite a species; with the above meagre notes I must leave it to the imagination of my readers. If any should come into the hands of our members (a very unlikely event I fear), a similar dietary to that given in the paragraphs on the Hermit and Wood Thrushes would also meet the needs of this species. The eye of this species is very beautiful-flashing red, like a *living* ruby, is about the best expression to faintly illustrate its brilliance,—one can only long for more arrivals.

METALLIC STARLINGS (*Calornis metallica*): This is another unique species from New Guinea, upon which one might exhaust all the superlatives in the English language and yet not do them justice, so I must beg the question with the following meagre notes: A typical Starling in form, the male clad in iridescent dark purples and greens, its eye is red and glistens like a ruby, the tail is narrow and pointed. The female is very similar as to the upper surface, but not so lustrous ; her under surface is pearly-white, striated with black. They occupied the same aviary as the Fairy Blue Birds. An attempt was made to secure photos, but the final result was very poor, owing to being compelled to take them against the light, also the rapidity of the bird's movements made it impossible to give a sufficiently lengthy exposure, compatable with the light conditions, consequently, though a block has been made we are not using it.

I must now pause here and leave the many other interesting species— Magpie Tanagers, Partridges, Quails, Guans and Trumpeter Birds, Great Bustards, and the fine series of water fowl for notice in next issue.

To be concluded.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

By G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 109.)

TITS.

Tits are well represented in the deodar zone and more visits in the winter would probably add to the list.

The Indian Grey Tit *(Parus atriceps)* is not exactly a bird to get excited about, being a very dingy edition of a Great Tit, still we should miss him as he is the only Tit that sticks to Bakloh all the year round.

The Green-backed Tit *(P. monticola)* is a glorified Great Tit, a trifle smaller but far brighter. He is quite common in winter in the Station, arriving earlier and staying later than our only other Tit visitor the Crested Black Tit. He and the Grey are equally adept in the exasperating art of catching themselves in any sort of trap, and the way they tangle themselves up in a net is annoying to put it mildly. On thinks he has just got the little brute clear, after ten minutes manipulating accompanied by many cuss words, and then one gets an unexpectedly sharp dig in an extra tender place, say the root of a nail, and one has to start the game all over again with warm feelings and hands blue with cold. Tits seem curious beasts as regards meating off, one doing well and another going off on exactly the same treatment. I took one home with me in April, 1908 ; he was much admired with me and with our Editor, into whose hands he passed. In the first instance I only kept him as a call bird in the vain hope that he would attract the Black Crested Tit ; he became so confiding that I thought he might as well go home with the other birds. I did not then realise how much brighter he was than the Great Tit. After seven years on end in India I was surprised to find English birds duller and larger than I thought they were, the Blue Tit and the Chaffinch being the chief offenders.

The Red-headed Tit *(Aegithaliscus erythrocephalus)* is a charming little mite, which I have only seen among the deodars, but he is not to be passed by with a mere mention. He is a prominent member of the hunting parties which, to me, are the chief incentive to investigate pure, unmixed deodar forest.

One is just beginning to wonder why one goes to such countries for bird-watching when a little twittering is heard and the party soon arrives, Redheads in van, flanks, rear and main body. In a good party one will probably find three other species of Tit, two species of Nuthatch, some small Warbler beasts (identifying warblers is anathema to me), Tree-creepers, Goldcrests, with several species of Wood-peckers pretending to be only spectators. A few Sibias and a Laughing-Thrush or so will also probably be seen, but their skulking habits may permit them to escape observation. The small fry are as busy as can be and take little notice of one's presence.

It is curious how hard it is to keep up with a party for long. In spite of the tameness, and continual twittering, they have a wonderful knack of slipping away even on the most favourable ground for human feet, which it generally is not. One has to give it up, hoping despondently (to be Irish) to " fluke " on them again, or at least to come across some Black and Yellow Grosbeaks (always good to meet with) or other finch beasts to relieve the monotony of the deodars. Still, even if one has no further luck, that thirty minutes or so with the hunting party is something to remember, and it is quite likely that one tries the deodars again at the next opportunity.

I have not kept the Red-headed Tit nor have I found the nest. Oates describes it as a round ball of moss, lichen and roots in the branch of an oak or deodar. Their general habits and shapes (bar the long tail) remind me of the Long-tailed Tit at home. Top of head and nape, chestnut ; face and throat black, with eyebrows and moustache streak white ; lower plumage, ferruginous ; upper plumage, outside part of wings and tail, brown. Length, 4·2 ; tail, 2 inches.

The Yellow-cheeked Tit (*Machlolophus xapthogenys*) I have only seen once or twice "higher up" in summer. It is a very handsome bird of the *P. major* type with yellow cheeks and a long pointed crest, black with a yellow crest to it. Length, 5·5 ; tail, 2·3.

The Crested Black Tit (*Lophophanes melanolophus*) is a fascinating little bird, rather of the Cole Tit type with a crest. It is very common in the Station during the winter especially in hard weather, but I found them difficult to trap. I only caught one, in a very carefully "dressed" (i.e. concealed by tying on leaves, &c.) spring-net trap hung up in a medlar tree. Much to my astonishment, considering the curiosity of most Tits, using him as a call-bird was not a success, rather the reverse, as he showed his contempt of the low profession by refusing to live. Head and breast, black, with sides of the face and a patch on the nape, white ; rest of the plumage, iron-grey, with under tail coverts and sides of the body, chestnut. Length, 4·3 ; tail, 1·7 inches. As one would expect it nests in a hole.

The Simla Black Tit (*L. rufinuchalis*) very like the above, and the Yellow-browed Tit (*Sylviparus modestus*) a handsome bird of the Great Tit type but smaller and slimmer, would also probably be met with in the deodars in winter.

The interesting family of Crow Tits *(Paradoxornithinae)* I regret I have never met, they come from much further south, and I only mention them as a prize that the inquisitive and acquisitive aviculturist should not let slip, if he should get the chance of procuring any ; very little is known of their habits, etc.

(*To be continued.*)

Nesting Notes, 1909—'10.

By MARK ARONSTEIN.

Very probably the following notes will prove of interest to my fellow members.

BLUE SUGAR BIRDS (*Dacnis cayana*). I have had a Blue Sugar Bird (♀) flying loose in my aviary for the past four years ; she has built her nest regularly each year, mostly in a Hartz travelling cage, laying three or four eggs, which are heavily mottled with brown at the larger end, and only slightly so at the other end. What becomes of the eggs I cannot say, they have regularly disappeared.

Last September I was fortunate enough to obtain, what I took to be, a male Blue Sugar Bird from a well-known dealer. It was freshly imported and in the usual unsatisfactory condition. I kept him in strict quarantine for a few months, till I considered it was safe to turn him into the aviary.

This year history appears to be repeating itself—though up to the present the weather here has been quite severe. About the middle of the month (April), I noticed the hen was very anxious to nest, but, although there is always plenty of nesting material in the aviary, she did not seem satisfied with same, but as soon as I put in some coco-nut fibre there was a great change ; she became busy and active at once, promptly commencing building operations, soon completing her nest which she lined with cow-hair. The nest was built in a Hartz travelling cage and four eggs were duly laid. I removed one and put it under a Canary as I was anxious to know if they were fertilized and this morning (April 24th) I found that it was fertile. An examination of the Sugar Bird's nest revealed but one egg, which was fertile—what became of the other two was a mystery. These are due to hatch out about Tuesday next, May 3rd, and I am hoping one or both will be reared.

CROSS MATING.

CARDINALS. I have a Red-crested Cardinal paired up with a Green (*Paroaria cucullata* x *Gubernatrix cristata*). The nest is built and I am expecting to find eggs any day. Three years ago the Red-crested paired up with a Pope Cardinal and three chicks were hatched out, but unfortunately none were reared.

SISKINS. Last year I successfully bred—in a cage 17½ in. long x 23 in. high—five hybrid Siskins, viz., Brazilian Black-headed x British Siskin (*Chrysomitris icterica* x *Carduelis spinus*). There were three nests—one in April, another in June, and the third in August. Five young were fully reared, all hens. They were mainly reared on dandelion buttons, canary, spray millet, niger, teasel and hemp seeds.

This year two of the hybrid hens (all I have retained) are at present paired with a colour-fed British Siskin ; they have built in a Hartz travelling cage, two eggs were laid. One of these was killed by the other Siskins, as I saw them fighting, but did not think it sufficiently serious to call for interference. I do not take much notice of fighting in the breeding season.

I am sending you the bird and nest as I think it may interest you.* I have put the two eggs under a Canary this morning (April 24).

BEARDED TITS (*Panurus biármicus* [*Linn*].). I had a couple of Bearded Tits hatched out last year, these lived to be a week old, when unfortunately I found the male parent dead—it looked very much as if he had been poisoned—and the young were of course starved to death.

[* The body was rather "high" when it arrived and after a passing glance, had to send it off very hurriedly to the taxidermist; the impression gathered was, that it was of a warmer hue generally than the female of our indigenous species, the striations of the under surface much less distinct and has the rump and upper tail coverts bright yellow, but I shall refer to them again when skin is to hand. The nest was a neat construction, cup-shaped, about 4½ in. outside diameter, the cup being about 2 in. diameter by 1½ in. deep. It was constructed of stiffish bents and lined with cocoa-nut fibre. Ed.]

Foreign Birds.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

(continued from page 74).

CHAPTER III*—TANAGRIDÆ.

This family includes many of the most popular, as well as some of the most gorgeous of Neotropical birds. Varied as their colour range is—covering as it does nearly every tint of the rainbow—their size and characteristics are equally so, for they may be said to range in size from (to use a familiar comparison) a Blue Tit to a Song Thrush. Tanagers are fruit-eating Finches, and on account of their beaks terminating in a little tooth, have been designated by Dr. Sclater dentirostal Finches. The small tooth at the end of the beak is of great value to this family, enabling them to scoop out large mouthfuls of soft fruit, which forms the major portion of their diet. This feature is practically common to the whole family—however it is practically absent in *Chlorochrysa and Arremon*- while the extent of the development of this feature in the various genera is very variable.

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* As a matter of convenience I am dealing with the family *Tanagridæ* not in its proper sequence, as it should follow after CŒREBIDÆ, therefore Chapter III. precedes Chapter II.

By the way, it will be best if I state here that I propose adopting the nomenclature of the British Museum Catalogue throughout this series.

This family is divided into six sub-families, of which the following key is reprinted *in extenso* from Vol. XI. of the British Museum Catalogue.

Key to the Sub-families.

" A.	Bill very short, much broadened at the base ; upper mandible hooked, slightly notched ; wings long ; first three primaries nearly equal and longest ; tail moderate."	I. PROCNIATINÆ.
" B.	Bill short, swollen at base, but not so much broadened ; upper mandible hooked with a terminal notch and usually two or three slight serrations behind it ; wings moderate ; first three primaries nearly equal and longest ; tail very short ; tarsus short."	II. EUPHONIINÆ.
" C.	Bill more lengthened, subulate, with a single terminal notch (sometimes obsolete on the upper mandible ; tail moderate ; tarsus moderate."	III. TANAGRINÆ.
" D.	Bill straight, stout ; terminal hook strong, no medium tooth ; gonys straight ; tail moderate ; feet large, claws strong and sharp."	IV. LAMPROTINÆ.
" E.	Bill much lengthened and compressed, with a slight terminal notch ; tail moderate or long ; tarsus rather short."	V. PHŒNICOPHILINÆ.
" F.	Bill short, stout, conical, Fringilline, terminal notch sometimes obsolete ; wings rather short than in *Tanagrinæ* ; tail usually moderate, sometimes elongated."	VI. PITYLINÆ.

Before proceeding to describe the species of the first sub-family, I think the best course will be to deal with the dietary of the whole family, only referring thereto again when dealing with such species as require some special treatment.

Their diet in a state of nature may be briefly summed up as, fruit, buds and insects. In captivity they are not difficult to cater for, and their " bill of fare " may be said to consist of soft food mixture, ripe fruit and insects, and with some species a little seed (this will be indicated when describing the species), and milk sop.

The chief difficulty with this family as a whole is the debilitated and sometimes infected condition in which they reach the aviculturist from the various sources of supply, and great care must be exercised in introducing new purchases among established stock – strict quarantine must be enforced for several weeks, or some contagious disease may be introduced and practically the whole stock rapidly succumb. This is serious fact as some of our members know to their cost, so I repeat never neglect quarantine. Once established, most of the species are fairly, some very, long-lived on a suitable diet. During the critical stage of getting new importations over the hardships of the voyage, etc., I have found milk sop a valuable adjunct with nearly all species It should be prepared from either fresh or condensed milk, crumbled biscuit or sponge cake, with a little of either Mellin's food or Scott's Emulsion added.

Soft Food Mixture (Insectile Mixture). The various recipes are legion—several of our members have reliable mixtures on sale —notably O. Millsum, P. F. M. Galloway, J. Frostick, and others.

For a home made mixture, some kind of biscuit meal should be used as a base - say two parts, to this add one part each fine ground crissel, find ground silk-worm pupæ, ants' cocooms, and banana meal, or Mr. Millsum's " B.C." Food. Now as regards the base of the mixture I " ring the changes " on Partridge Meal, Game Meal, Chicken Meal, Cod liver Oil and Cage Bird Food—thus securing a frequent change for the various occupants of my aviaries and cages. To be quite clear, I may say I usually mix about 35 lbs. at a time (five weeks' supply, and it is roughly as follows :—

7 lbs. Spratts' Cod-liver Oil and Cage Bird Food, 7 lbs. ants' cocoons, 3½ lbs. fine ground crissel, 3½ lbs. Partridge Meal, 7 lbs. dried flies or Pupæ Meal, and 7 lbs. Banana Crystals (Banana meal would answer the purpose). Mix the whole thoroughly well together and it will keep indefinately in any dry place.

For use take the daily portion, make crumbly moist with boiling water, and then stir in a larger or smaller portion of crumbled sponge cake according to the species kept.

Fruit: Almost any kind may be given that is in season, it should be fully ripe but not rotten. I am not enamoured with orange, save as a variety with other fruits – banana, apple, and grapes, I make my mainstay and give any English fruit in season as well. I do not care for it (orange) as the sole fruit diet of any species, while it is in season, and do not so supply it save in the case of such that will practically take no other kind - I supply it (orange) regularly all the year round to my birds, but not in such quantities as the other kinds enumerated above.

Insects: Mealworms and gentles will have to be the mainstay, especially in the winter months, but during the other portion of the year—cockroaches, beetles, plant lice, live ants' cocoons, smooth caterpillars, spiders, and almost any form of garden pest, with their larvæ and pupæ, that are available If you are anywhere near a hedgerow or an open common, then a few minutes with an entomological sweeping net in the early morning, will give your birds a rare feast, if they are in an aviary it means simply turning out the contents of the net *en masse* leaving the birds to help themselves.

When kept in cages, these should be roomy and the perches (natural branches for preference) should be of varying thickness—no cage for a vivacious Tanager should be less than 2ft. long.

The quality of the diet must be regulated according to the demeanour of the birds—our feathered friends must be studied *individually* and treated accordingly. *It is not the largest species that calls for the largest cage or the most nutritious diet.*

Sub Family i.: PROCNIATINÆ.

This consists of but one genus with one species and two subspecies; it is questionable if the two latter are distinct, the differences being mainly that of size, in which respect the species is very variable. I do not think it has, as yet, been imported alive into this country, certainly I have never seen a living specimen. I may slightly digress here and say, that as we proceed it will be seen what a large number of species of the Family *Tanagridæ* yet remain to be introduced to English aviculture.

THE TURQUOISE TANAGER (*Procnias tersa*). This beautiful species is very Swallow-like in form -the skin gives some idea of its great beauty as will be gathered from the description, but is far removed (almost beyond conception) from what the living beauty of this feathered gem must be.

Description (♂): General body colouring, bright turquoise-blue; wings and tail, black, with nearly the whole of the feathers edged with turquoise-blue; forehead, sides of the face and throat, deep velvety black; middle of abdomen and ventral region, pure white; sides of body blue, barred with black; bill, black; legs and feet, dark brown. Total length, 6 inches, of which the tail measures barely 2¼.

Female: Differs from the male. Upper surface, rich green; wings and tail, brownish-black, most of the feathers with bright green margins; under surface, green, barred with yellow transversley; middle of abdomen and ventral regions, pale yellow; throat, greyish and speckled; bill, plumbeous; legs and feet, dark brown.

Hab.: South America from Columbia down to Bolivia and S. Brazil (B.M.C., Vol. xi.).

Sub. family ii. EUPHONIIÆ.

This consists of four genera, viz., *Chlorophonia* (a), *Euphonia* (33), *Hypophœa* (1), *Pyrrhuphonia* (1).

Key to the Genera (B.M.C. Vol. xi).

" A. Upper mandible with a terminable notch..............*Chlorophonia.*
" a. Plumage, bright green ....*Euphonia.*
" b. Plumage, mostly black and yellow ....
" B. Upper mandible without any terminal notch...............................
" c. Tail, rather long. ....*Hypophœa.*
" d. Tail short (as in Euphonia). ....*Pyrrhuphonia.*"

Many of the species of this sub-family are well known to aviculture and consist of some of the most beautiful of a gorgeous and regal family, yet there are quite a number of the genus *Euphonia* not yet known to aviculture—several species, new to aviculture, have been recently brought over from the West Indies by our esteemed member, Mr. A. Sutcliffe to which I shall refer in due course, but for this issue I have reached the limit of space.

(*To be continued.*)

NOTE: The figures in parenthesis denote number of species.

A Holiday in the West Indies.

BY A. SUTCLIFFE.

(Continued from page 107).

I regret to say the photo of the Vulture in our last issue was described as that of the Turkey Vulture, whereas it is the Common Black Vulture, the photo was taken at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

My case of skins, photos, etc., has arrived, and I can now quote from notes, many of which were taken on the spot. After being practically prisoners for seven days, during which time it was raining as I have never seen it rain in England, even during thunderstorms; we were pleased to be able to venture out, and as one will readily understand I was eager to have a look round. After a few days spent in and around Kingston, my friend suggested a trip to Newcastle, the Hill station of the White Troops, situated on the Blue Mountains about 20 miles from Kingston, and some 4,000 feet above the level. We thought the best means of travelling would be by horse vehicle, and we therefore hired a pair horse buggy, and set out after breakfast, but were soon in difficulties. The water was still pouring down the mountains, and making the roads, which were not entirely washed away, almost impassable: many of them we eventually found had entirely disappeared. We almost lost our vehicle early on, and two or three times had to cross swiftly flowing miniature rivers, where previously there had been a good road, but of which there was now no trace. We had some amusing incidents (see photos), and once we were literally in the mud, and had some difficulty in getting out. It would not have been so bad if the washing away of the road had been uniform. At one time you would have one wheel almost high and dry, and the other in three feet of mud and water, Eventually the vehicle was smashed up, and left a total wreck. As you will imagine during this journey I had no time to look for birds, and when we landed at our Hotel we were ready for a bath. During the next three days we had a quiet time, and then decided to have another try to reach Newcastle. This time we set out on polo ponies, very sure footed little animals, and although of the lean kind, are capable of far greater exertions than ours. As we gradually left the lowlands, where there were a few Finches, many birds were to be seen, the butterflies were busy visiting the flowers, and there were many birds on the lower reaches of the Hills; mostly doves, plovers, etc. One dainty little creature was the Orange and Black Warbler, a beautiful bird with very similar actions to our Lesser Whitethroat. The Long-tailed Humming Birds (*Trochilus polytmus*) were very common. They are very beautiful as they move about in the bright sunshine. The two outer tail feathers are 7 inches long, plumage mostly black, green and gold. They make a very fine show as they flit from flower to flower, and were mostly seen on a bushy flowering shrub named Boganvillia, which is usually found growing on fences, verandahs, trees, etc., and is very effective with its masses of flowers.

*Banana Birds (*Icterus leucopteryx*) were fairly numerous at an altitude of 1,000 feet. They are pretty birds; their principal colours are black, yellow and white. They are similar in build to a Hangnest, but not so large, and in company with Blue Quits (*Euphonia jamaica*) a small Tanager, with blue upper, and yellow underparts, were feeding on a fruit called Guava, which is about the size of a walnut with a yellowish skin and pink inside, very similar in formation to a Gooseberry: the bushes grow about seven

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* *Pyrrhuphonia jamaica.*—B.M.C., Ed.

The First Start.

Photos by A. R. Dean.

Fast in the mud.

Incidents of a trip from Kingston (Jamaica) to Newcastle.

The Second Start.

Photos by A. Sutcliffe.

Repairing the Road.

Incidents of a trip from Kingston (Jamaica) to Newcastle.

feet high, and the fruit on the tree looks like small apples at a distance.

I saw several Rufous-throated Tanagers (*Glossiptila ruficollis*), but what they were feeding on I could not ascertain owing to their wildness, the Doves were also very numerous, and their cooing decidedly mournful and weird.

A Thrush, named Hopping Dick (*Merula leucogenys*) was to be seen, mostly amongst the Pimento Trees, and with its reddish-yellow beak and legs, reminds one very much of our familiar Blackbird, it has a very fine song. The Green Tody (*Todus viridis*) was here and there met with sitting on a branch frog-like, with head pointed upwards, and plumage puffed out ; their shining green plumage with scarlet throat patch makes them very pretty little creatures. Every now and again they take a short sharp flight of a few feet, returning to the same perch after catching the insect, in a similar manner to our Spotted Flycather, and to see one waiting for an opportunity to catch an insect, makes you think something has gone wrong with the works, as the position they adopt, is one of a mopy bird. If you approach, however quietly, you will notice their large eyes are carefully watching you ; they allow you to come within a few feet, and they can be caught with a hand net. When disturbed they fly to another tree, and resume the squatting attitude again. Their food appears to be all taken on the wing, and they build in banks, but I was not fortunate enough to find a nest. Another very interesting little bird, frequenting the same locality, was the Ant Eater, a Creeper, striped all over black and white. This bird crawls on the tree trunks, in a jerky manner, and feeds principally on ants and small insects found on the bark.

The Blue Quits were very busy searching the Pimento trees, practically in hundreds, and making a lively little twitter as they foraged, in a manner very much like our Great Tit. I also saw the Cotton Tree Sparrow or Black Bullfinch, a bird which in size and build is almost a counterpart of our Bullfinch. General plumage black with rust-red throat and under tail coverts ; the hens are easily distinguished from the cocks by their browner plumage, and less brilliant throat patch. I saw several kinds of Hawks and a very fine Heron which I could not identify, but the plumage looked chiefly black and orange yellow, at a distance.

As we gradually climbed the mountain roads, which were in some places entirely washed away, the birds were of a different kind; for instance, the Glass Eye (*Merula jamaicensis*), a thrush with eyes like glass, became fairly common about 3,000 feet up, they much resemble our Redwing in action, appearing to feed more on berries than insects, and are usually seen in the trees and not much on the ground. Gosse, in "Birds of Jamaica," says he has never found any animal substance in the stomach of this species, although he examined several; it is also called the Shine-eye or Fish-eye.

We now came to a part of the road which was entirely washed away, and with a sheer rise of 50 feet on one side and a gully of greater depth on the other side; we were compelled to make a halt, and send to Newcastle for help, to enable us to get the ponies over the road, and with the aid of a few soldiers, we soon made the road sufficiently safe to lead the ponies across, and I was very pleased indeed when I got my pony over safely.

(*To be continued.*)

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* This name is used rather promiscuously for many species in the West Indies. —Ed.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from p. 115.*)

MEROPIDAE.

The BEE-EATERS are smaller and more graceful birds than their cousins the Rollers, and like them are common all over Africa. From their name one would suppose that their chief food would consist mainly of bees, but many of them, particularly the Red and the Dwarf Bee-eaters, seem to feed largely on other kinds of insects. We have in the Gambia representatives of the three genera Dicrocercus, in which the tail is deeply forked, Melittophagus with square tails, and Merops whose tails are square but have the two central feathers prolonged to an inch or more beyond the rest.

Dicrocercus furcatus. SWALLOW-TAILED BEE-EATER.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Gaboon; North-east Africa. (*H.L.*)

Green above shading into blue on the rump; tail blue washed with green and tipped with white; below throat yellow remainder of under surface green; under surface of wings chestnut; bill black; legs brown; iris red. Length about 8½ inches.

I do not think that this can be a common species here; the few I have seen, easily recognisable by their tails, have been odd ones (I should think on migration), at Cape St. Mary and other places in Kombo along the sea-coast.

Of the next genus there are four species which should be found in the Gambia; of these I know two well.

Melittophagus pusillus. **DWARF BEE-EATER.**

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Cameroons. *(H.L.)*

Very common everywhere. They are not nearly such haunters of the river's edge are most of our Bee-eaters, but with us are generally found in the dried up swamps, where one often comes across flocks of 50 or more, flitting about and busily engaged in the capture of flies and other insects. Just before sunset one often finds a patch of tall grass or reeds absolutely full of these pretty little birds hanging on to the dry yellow stems, against which they are most conspicuous either when their green backs or yellow black-marked under surfaces are towards one; at intervals one or two will dart away a short distance to snap up passing insects and return immediately to their perches, or occasionally they will rise *en masse* to fly round the patch once or twice, soon however to return and eventually after a little mild bickering to settle down for the night as the darkness comes on. They begin to breed about May (I had a half-fledged youngster brought me one June), laying their eggs in holes burrowed out in colonies in sandy banks.

The following description is taken from two shot in January, 1904:

Above, including head, back, rump and upper tail coverts glossy emerald green, wonderfully sheeny in life; forehead tinged with olive; lores, round and behind eye for a third of an inch black; throat and cheeks yellow with a black patch at the junction of the throat and breast; this patch shades into burnt-sienna below, which in turn merges into the reddish-tawny of the rest of the under parts, which extends to the under tail-coverts, but gets paler towards that point. Wing-coverts green like the back; primaries tawny-brown on outer webs, grey-brown on inner, ends of inner feathers black; secondaries a redder shade of the primaries' colour and with larger black ends; under surface of wings ochreous-tawny with black tips to secondaries and inner primaries; under wing-coverts like the belly. The two middle feathers of the upper tail-coverts are prolonged to equal the tail, they are green above, grey below; each feather of tail red-tawny with a broad black band at end narrowly bordered with whitish; below the same but duller. Bill and feet black; iris crimson. Length 6½ inches; bill fifteen-sixteenth inch.

M. variegatus.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Congo; Equatorial Africa. *(H.L.)*

Like *pusillus* except that the throat-band is blue not black. I may have seen this species, but if I have, have never distinguished it from its relative.

M. bullocki. **BULLOCK'S BEE-EATER.**

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Congo; North-east Africa. *(H.L.)*

This, a larger bird than the two preceding and easily distinguished even on the wing by its red throat, is common in the Gambia from about May to November. Whenever one travels up the river at this season, one sees numbers of them flying about overhead or sitting on the tops of the trees that line the bank, but during the remainder of the year they are conspicuous by their absence. Their colours are particularly bright and gleam like a cluster of varied jewels when the sun catches them, so that their possessors share with the Red Bee-eaters the very doubtful honour of being the most sought after of all their tribe by the skin-hunters from French territory. The following gives, I am afraid, but a faint idea of their beauty. Above, bright glossy green with a bluish gloss on the head; nape rufous. Wings dusky green tipped and edged with black; tail, black. Lores and eye-streak, deep black; throat a brilliant scarlet; chest bright rufous; belly blue; under surface of wings ochraceous; beak black; legs brown; iris hazel. Length 8½ inches.

M. boleslaskii.

Range. Soudan (Senegambia to North-east Africa). (*H.L.*)

Like *bullocki*, but with a yellow instead of a red throat. I do not know it and suppose it must be very rare as there is only one skin in the British Museum.

Of the next genus (*Merops*) the Hand List gives five species whose range includes the Gambia. Of these four are green birds, while the fifth is chiefly red. The last I know well, but about the other four I am most uncertain. Green-plumaged Bee-eaters, other than the *Dicrocerci* and *Melittophagi* which I know, are commonly seen and must belong to this genus, but I cannot say to which species, though I am inclined to think that most of those I see are the Green-throated Bee-eaters (*M. viridis*). I will, therefore, merely give a list of the four species with their habitats and short descriptions, followed by those of my notes which I suppose refer to one or other of these species.

Merops apiaster. COMMON BEE-EATER.

Range. Europe, Asia; Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Forehead white shading through yellowish green on the head into chestnut on the back; wings and coverts above green and chestnut, quills tipped with black; tail green except for the two elongated centre feathers, which are black. Streak through eye black; chin and throat yellow; rest of under surface greenish-blue separated from the yellow throat by a black band. Iris red; bill black; legs brown. Length 9·4 inches.

Merops persicus. BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER.

Very like the Common Bee-eater but the crown and back are green not chestnut, and there is a light-blue patch on the cheeks below the black eye-streak.

Merops albicollis. WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER.

Range. Tropical Africa, South Arabia. (*H.L.*)

About the same size as the Common Bee-eater. Back dark green washed with blue, rump reddish, upper tail coverts ashy blue; wings reddish-brown bordered with olive green. Crown of head black, forehead, lores and eyebrow dirty white; a black line behind the eye. Chin and throat white; on the breast is a black patch narrowly bordered with pale blue; belly green, under surface of wings yellowish brown bordered with grey. Beak black, legs brown.

Merops viridis. GREEN-THROATED BEE-EATER.

Range. Asia, Egypt, North-east Africa, Soudan to Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

Differs from *albicollis* in having a green throat bordered below by a narrow black line of black, while the head is reddish washed with green, so that it looks either reddish or green according to the light.

My notes are as follows :—

Jan. 1904. Bee-eaters with pointed feathers in tail and of a very blue shade of green common at Jennak and again at Sujuka, in parties of from 20 to 30. These I thought at the time were Common Bee-eaters, but later on decided in my own mind that they were *viridis*.

March, 1905. Bee-eaters (*? viridis*) common on the flats skirting the Jeshuwan swamp.

Feb. 5th, 1907. A number of green-blue Bee-eaters, the same size as the common Bee-eater, flying over the swamp near Bakow.

March 11, 1907. A large flock of Green Bee-eaters (probably the same as the above) in the middle of the swamp on the Cape road (*viridis* or *persicus* as far as I could tell at a distance, I think the former). Most of them were resting on the Mangrove bushes, hardly moving at one's approach and looking as if they were wearied with travel.

March 30, 1907. Sangajor. Green Bee-eaters in pairs all about the thick bush here, especially on the outside of the clumps of larger trees. Bees, as is generally the case in Fogni at this season are very numerous and troublesome, so that the birds must easily be able to get a surfeit of the name food here.

Nov., 1909. Saw a few green Bee-eaters in the Upper River, but they were not nearly so numerous as the Red and Bullock's Bee-eaters, which were literally in swarms all along the banks.

Merops nubicus. RED BEE-EATER.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Nigeria ; Equatorial and East Africa. *(H.L.)*

This handsome species is the commonest of all of all our Bee-eaters They are particularly partial to the neighbourhood of water and are to be seen in hundreds nearly every time one travels on the river. They spend more of their waking hours on the wing than their green relations and are more in evidence than they are at bush fires preying on the insects driven up. So certainly are they to be found at bush fires that they have earned a special name from the Mandingoes, "Taka-barringdingo," which literally means "The nephew of the burning," or as it would be translated here into the expressive coast English, "Ol' man bush-fire him pickin'." This habit of theirs too is taken advantage of by the native skin hunters, who have only to fire the bush to be certain of attracting plenty of these Bee-eaters as well as Glossy Starlings and Rollers within reach of their guns. Their Joloff name is Pitchi-dai. They nest in holes in high banks overlooking water,—with us mostly in the Upper River district, where the banks are steep and fairly porous. Their food is much the same as that of the Bee-eaters, but they show a decided preference for the larger insects ; I have often seen them tackle and after some struggling swallow quite big locusts, feats which I have never seen any of the relations emulate.

Their plumage is mainly a lovely crimson set off by blue and black ; in detail : the upper parts are a beautiful silky crimson changing to light blue on the rump ; wings reddish brown tipped with black ; tail of which the two middle feathers are much narrowed and elongated, like the wings. Head bluish-green with a black line from the beak through the eye to the nape; throat blue-green; chest and belly, as far as the legs, a lovely rose-pink; vent and under tail coverts turquoise blue; under surface of wings tawny with black tips. Iris deep red; bill black; legs brown. Length to end of longest tail feathers 13 inches.

[*To be continued.*]

BRITISH BIRDS.

Breeding the Goldfinch

(*Carduelis elegans*),

By R. Suggitt.

The Goldfinch is probably the favourite of our seed-eating birds, and no doubt thousands are caught and caged annually, it is easily catered for, and owing to its bright plumage and pretty little song is eagerly sought after and holds a justly proud position in both cage and aviary. Early in the spring of 1904, I purchased two pairs and put them into my aviary (*Cleethorpes, Lincs.*) with the intention of attempting to breed them; in this I was fairly successful. The first nest was built under the covered portion of the aviary in a Hartz travelling cage early in May, and four eggs were laid, all of which were duly hatched. On the fourth day, however, for some reason, which I could never understand, the nest was deserted and the offspring perished. In the meantime, the other pair built a nest in a Cyprus bush, quite close to the ground. Only three eggs were laid, all of which duly hatched and two of the youngsters were reared. During this time they principally fed on chickweed and groundsel, supplied fresh twice daily, and although flowering grass was always handy my notes make no mention of any attempt to feed thereon. The pair which failed with their first attempt now built a typical nest in a privet hedge, running the whole length of aviary, almost at the top. Four eggs were laid which duly hatched and the young were all reared This pair fed freely on soft food mixture from the first, and later both pairs were often seen feeding on bananas, it is quite surprising how the majority of our indigenous finches readily take to fruit and insect food. Each pair had three nests with a gross result of 14 young finches reared to maturity during the season. When the youngsters were on the wing they were fed by all four of the birds indescriminately, the male in particular paid every attention to young of each brood. They were also fed by other birds, and a Cordon Blue (♂) an odd bird, was often noticed feeding one or other of the Greypates. I selected one pair of the youngsters and removed all the others, old and young. The hen died during the winter following and the cock on the 4th of the present month. As I am very fond of their bright cheery actions another pair have now been introduced and probably they also will shortly attempt to reproduce their kind.

I also bred this species freely when residing in the Midlands, during the years 1876 to 1880, green food and fruit played a very important part in the successful rearing of the young—this latter remark equally applies to the successful breeding of Bullfinches in captivity.—In 1880 when I commenced to keep Foreign Species, our indigenous species gradually disappeared from my aviaries. Last year I once more found room for pairs of Goldfinches, Twites, and Siskins, but they made no attempt to breed.—Ed.

Nesting Notes.

Our esteemed Hon. Sec. informs me that eight young Blackbirds have been reared in his aviaries, and that pairs of Thrushes and Hedge Sparrows are busily incubating.

Arrivals.

Our esteemed member, Mr. Mathias, reports the following—locality Stubbington, Lee-on-Solent: April 15th.—Quite an assembly of Swallows hawking over a marshy area of the coast; the following day they had dispersed, evidently inland. April 18th—Nightingale heard here in full song. April 24th—The Cuckoo was heard here, that is between Stubbington and Fareham.

Mr. Yealland, Haven-street, I. of W., reports: Swallows were seen here April 15th, also the Lesser Whitethroat.

Wild Bird Arrivals in the Midlands (Beds.)

We are always rather behind with our arrivals, it is so cold in these parts; on 13th April, the first Swallows came; Cuckoo heard for first time on 24th. Blackcaps, Chiff-chaffs, Golden Crests, and a Hoopoe were seen in the wood (Toddington Manor). Many first broods of Thrushes are flying. Wrens and Hedge Sparrows have young. Bullfinches in one aviary have already built several nests, laid, and then destroyed them. It is very early for them to be nesting, but birds confined do not act as in their natural state.

Mrs. E. W. VERNON.

Hen Bullfinches sitting together.

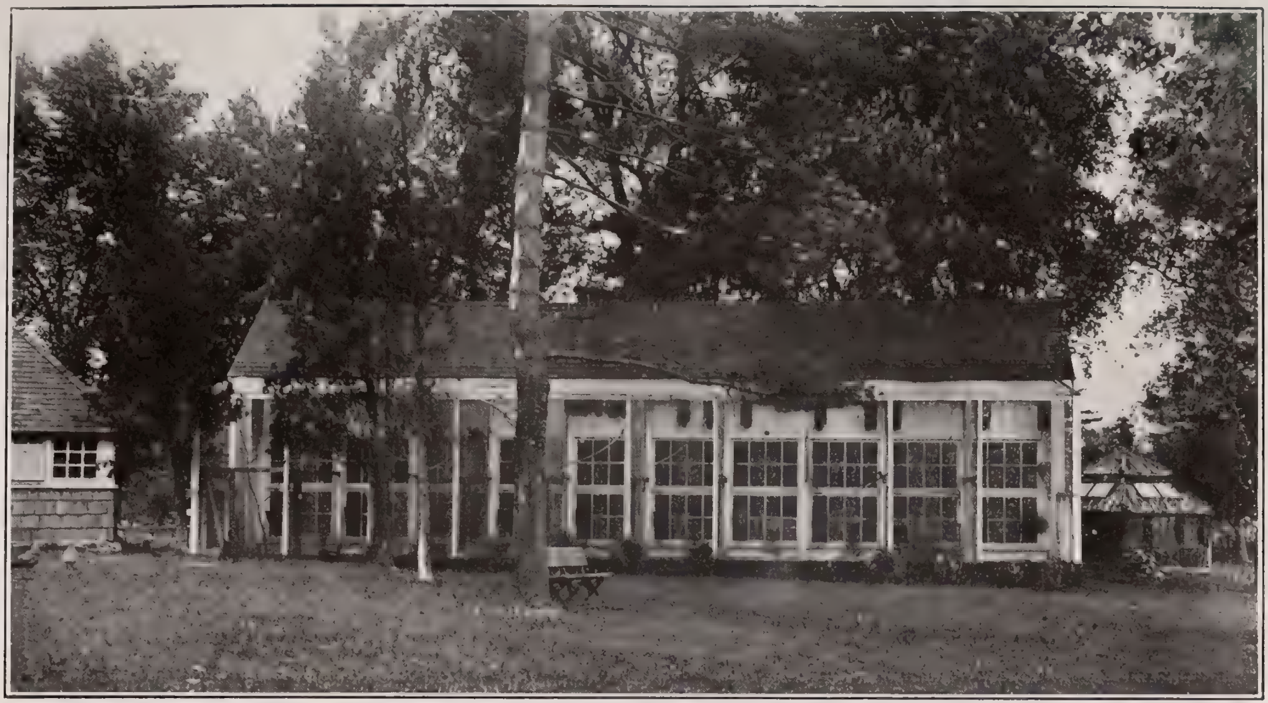
It may be of some interest to other members if I relate the curious behaviour of two maiden Bullfinches. They were two from a nest of four I hand-reared last year, and have been flying loose in an out-door aviary all the winter. I selected one and she paired up at once with a cock I had, and has since made and un-made several nests and laid several eggs. The other two remaining hens were left together; one morning I was surprised to see them both on a well-made nest of fir twigs they had made in a box tree, both sitting at once with six eggs between them. They sat so close that, though rather wild usually, they allowed me to approach close to them, only both opened their mouths at me. It was too dull to obtain a photo, but it was worth it, if I could have taken one, as a more ridiculous sight I've not seen, one hen sat on the other's back— there was no room for both on the eggs. They agreed perfectly. I obtained two cocks and now they are all in the aviary together.

MRS. E. W. VERNON.

A Homing Greenfinch.

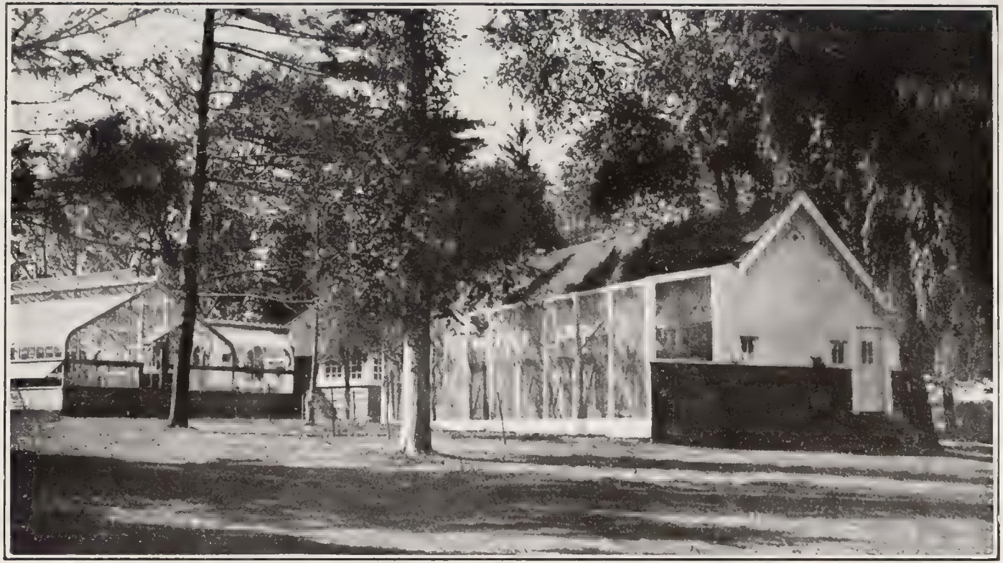
The following interesting narrative has been forwarded to me by our esteemed member Mr. H. Gourlay, the notes are from his daughter's pen.

Perhaps the following short account of a wild bird showing that ' homing instinct " of which one hears so much in the animal world may interest your readers. A short time ago we found a Greenfinch caught by the leg in a mouse-trap which had been set in the vinery. We noticed, on taking the poor creature out, that he was blind in one eye, evidently an old injury, and one which may have caused him to blunder into the trap, for had he tried to eat the bait of cheese there certain death from the spring descending on his neck, would have been the result. The injured leg was of course broken and quite useless so I placed him in a cage and kept him in the vinery for a week, feeding him chiefly on hemp seed, of which Greenfinches are passionately fond. He was able after a day or two to hop about on one leg, but as he continued wild and restless in the cage, I thought the kindest thing would be to release him. Thinking that a retired spot, where he would be in no danger from boys or cats, would be better than the garden, we carried him to Came Wood, a distance of fully two miles from here, and set him free near a quiet little stream. from whose waters there rose a wild duck disturbed by our footsteps, Two hours later my husband happened to look through the glass door into the vinery and was greatly surprised to see that our little cripple had returned, and was sitting on his cage trying to reach the hemp seed inside. We were so pleased and touched by his return that we have put down seed for him every day in the vinery, and he comes



Mr. Browning's Aviaries, New York, U.S.A.

For detailed description see " My Aviaries and their Inmates " in April issue, p.p. 100 to 104.



Mr. Browning's Aviaries, New York, U.S.A.

For detailed description see " My Aviaries and their Inmates " in April issue, p.p. 100 to 104.

daily to feed there, sometimes accompanied by a hen Greenfinch, but always driving off others of his kind as well as his maimed condition permits. As I write these words, the long drawn out spring call of the Greenfinch "Twa-a-y" sounds close by, and I see through the glass door our small pensioner in his safe green suit with its trimmings of yellow, is sitting contentedly on the passion flower which is trained against the vinery wall.

AGNES FORSTER.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Canaries, Hybrids and British Birds in Cage and Aviary.—Cassell & Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part II.—This well sustains the promise of Part I.—Dr. Galloway continues the History of the Canary—this complete, reliable and well written account of this popular bird, is of considerable value and much practical interest, it is well illustrated with text figures in black and white and also coloured figures of some of the principal varieties.

It also contains a chapter on the Breeding Room, dealing with temperature, ventilation, and general arrangement—illustrated with photographic reproductions of typical bird-rooms.

A chapter on Cages and Cage-making is commenced, which promises to be of much practical interest.

Our Search for a Wilderness.—By Mary Blair Beebe & C. W. Beebe.—Henry Holt & Co., New York.

Those who have read "Two Bird Lovers in Mexico" by the same authors, will know that it is high praise when I say that this work is more entrancing still, and every page is replete with scientific and practical interest. It is profusely illustrated with photographic reproductions of Birds, Mamals and their haunts. A cursory glance has been sufficient to indicate that bird-lovers will find it of entrancing interest—instance, such as nesting accounts of Dusky or Violet Parrot, with photo of young.

Our copy only came to hand just as we were going to press and I must leave further notice till next issue.

The Water-fowl of India and Asia.—By F. Finn, B.A., M.B.O.U.—Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta. Rs. 2-8.

This little work is very comprehensive and includes chapters as under:—

How to distinguish—Distribution and Divisions of the Duck Family.
Swans.—Geese.—Mergansers.—Tree Ducks.
Also Appendices.

I.—Synoptical Table of the Indian Anatidœ, with index.
II.—Table of Colours of full plumaged males, with index.
III.—Treatment of Ducks in Confinement.—Aviaries for Ducks.—Keeping Ducks in Tanks.—What to keep.—Breeding.—Transport, etc.

There are half-tone head figures of 21 species by H. Gronvold

We can confidently recommend this interesting booklet to our readers, it should be on the book shelves of all who are interested in Waterfowl, both as to their wild life and in captivity.

This also only came to hand as we were going to press, and we shall refer to same in our next issue.

Editorial.

Nesting Notes. It is almost too early yet, to tabulate, especially as many like myself do not supply nesting material till April is well advanced, but some species usually manage to find enough to construct some sort of a nest and one or two, so that the following advance notes will prove of some interest. I should say most of the following are extracts from private correspondence.

Tri-coloured Parrot Finches (*Erythrura trichroa*). Our esteemed member, W. R. Temple, has six young of this species flying about in his aviary, all as large as their parents; the last one leaving the nest on April 8th. The parent birds (two pairs) were placed in an aviary, about 12ft. by 10ft., the middle of February. The aviary was kept an even night and day temperature of 50 to 60 deg. F. Nesting operations were commenced at once, then finding the two pairs would not agree, I removed one pair and put them with the common Parrot Finches (*E. psittacea*). The pair left alone at once started to lay and six strong young birds were successfully reared and all on the wing on April 8th On April 12th the hen started laying her second clutch, but after laying two eggs went into heavy moult and the eggs were placed under Bengalese. A brood of five or six common Parrot Finches were hatched on April 16th.

Mr. Willford's Aviaries: Here numerous Grassfinches, etc., are sitting, also Tri-coloured Parrot, Painted and Cuban Finches, and three fertile eggs of the Ruddy-shouldered Cowbird *(A. humeralis)* have been placed in a Hedge Sparrow's nest and are being steadily incubated. Diamond and Passerine Doves have each a pair of squabs (see also under British Birds).

Grey-winged Ouzels: These are busily engaged in building operations in my aviary, three partly finished nests have been already constructed and they are now busily engaged on a fourth, which I take from past experience will be the receptacle of a clutch of eggs in the course of the next few days.

Rheas: Our esteemed member, Mrs. E. Warren-Vernon informs me that her pair of Rheas are booming and that she expects nesting operations to commence shortly.

Parva Finches (*Spermophila parva*). Our esteemed member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker informed me about the middle of April that he had a pair of this species incubating a clutch of eggs; if all has gone well, these must be almost ready to leave.

Racquet-tailed Parrot: Our esteemed member, Mr. E. W. Harper, writes me that the statement on p. 97 of April issue "*Bird Notes*," that he presented a female which he imported in 1902 (the first living specimen to reach Europe) is incorrect, as the Zoological Society purchased this bird from him.

Rare Acquisitions: Mr. Millsum informs me that Mr. Pauwvel's large and interesting collection has recently been increased by two true pairs and three odd males of Cuban Trogons (*Prionotelus temnurus*), a pair of Cuban Woodpeckers, true pair of Hangnests (*Icterus parisorum*) and a pair of Ostriches.

Capture of the Cocks of the Rock: The following cutting from the "Field" (May 7th issue), from the pen of our esteemed member, Mr E. W. Harper, will, I think, prove of general interest:

> **"By the last mail from British Guiana I heard that Mr. W. Frost—**
> **"who took out a consignment of Birds of Paradise to the West Indies for**
> **"Sir William Ingram—had succeeded in capturing six Cocks of the Rock**
> **"(*Rupicola crocea*), and bringing them safely down to the coast at George-**
> **"town. Mr. Frost was away in the interior of the colony for about three**
> **"months, the return journey with the birds being particularly trying, on**
> **"account of the swamps and the swollen state of the rivers owing to the**
> **"heavy rains. When living in British Guiana some three or four years ago**
> **"I had an opportunity of handling a young living Cock-of-the-Rock, which**
> **"had been brought down to the coast, and was told by a Portuguese trader,**
> **"who had dealings with the aborigines in the interior, where the birds are**
> **"found, that none had arrived for about twenty years previously, when two**
> **"dozen or so were brought down for sale. It is to be hoped that Mr. Frost**
> **"will be successful in landing the birds in England.—E. W. HARPER. [Ten**
> **"examples of this beautiful species have been exhibited at the Zoological**
> **"Gardens. Two were received in 1866, and the last specimen arrived in**
> **"1885.—ED.]"**

Hooded Siskins (*Chrysomitris cucullata*): Our esteemed member, Mr R. Suggitt has a pair of this interesting and charming species nesting in a cage, with every prospect of success.

Additions to the Zoo: Two very recent and beautiful additions arrived on May 7th, which some F.B.C. Members had the priviledge of examining on arrival, viz., Two Pigmy Owls, The White-eared Scops Owl (*Scops leucotis*), and the Pearl Spotted Owl (*Glaucidium pearlatum*). The chaste harmony of their colouration is exquisite indeed, and we must refer to them again in a later issue.

Correspondence.

Cross-Mating of Blue-Mountain Lorikeet and Violet-necked Lory (continued). Sir.—In continuation of my notes in April "*Bird Notes*," I may say that a fine young bird was hatched from the one egg laid in the nest, but, as the parents failed to feed it, it of course died. At the time the first egg was dropped upon the ground I did not know Lories only laid two, or I should have mended the tiny crack with gummed tissue paper and replaced it in the nest. As it is I am afraid there is nothing of interest to record, except the fact that the Lory sat exactly a month to my certain knowledge, and the probability is two days over the month. Thus—on the 22nd March an egg was laid on the ground, on the 25th I took an opportunity to examine the nest and found one egg, which was hatched on April 22nd, four weeks to a day from my discovery of the egg, and the probability is it was laid the day after the first one, and, as the hen sat closely the whole of the time, this would make the incubation two days over the month, an unusually long time for so small a bird, I think you will allow. The cock spent all the nights in the nest also, and fed the hen assiduously during the day; it was provoking he failed to feed the young one. They evidently intend to go to nest again, but I have not much hope of any better results next time.

(Mrs.) E. A. H. HARTLEY.

Similar Names. Mr. E. W. Harper, of 6, Ashburnham Road, Bedford (late of India and British Guiana), writes to say that he does not supply cocoa-nut husks; nor is he at all connected with anyone else of the same name at Wolverhampton. This announcement is made in view of Mr. Browning s recommendation on page 103 of last month's *Bird Notes.*

Black-cheek Love Birds—A further Note of Warning! Sir, in your last issue you published a word of warning from me about this species. Will you permit me in the interests of our Readers to say, unless my two pairs of Black-cheeks are of a particularly blood-thirsty disposition that, in addition to maiming the Budgerigars as previously recorded, they literally smashed in the head of a Long-tailed Grass Finch cock (one of the miscellaneous lot of finches I mentioned as having turned into their aviary). The hen of this pair died two days later, so she doubtless had been assaulted by the Black-cheeks. I can only presume that these Long-tails had intruded on the domestic arrangements of the Black-cheeks and had paid the usua penalty for their temerity. All *pairs* of finches have now been removed from this aviary; but two odd hens I could find no other home for, are flying about with the Black-cheeks, and are apparently on the best of terms with them. To the "moral" arrived at in my last letter, it is obviously necessary to add that when Black-cheeks are once established in an aviary it is only courting disaster to put *pairs* of birds in with them.

It may perhaps be of interest also to members that from the "log-nesters" the result of their first nest has been six eggs laid, one fully fledged youngster, two dead in the nest (partly fledged), and three infertile eggs. So the season of 1910 has opened inauspiciously for me! It would be interesting if others of our members who keep lack-cheeks would give the result of their breeding operations, and especially whether any 1909

bred birds have gone to nest. One pair of mine before I sold my surplus birds, made a half-hearted attempt at a nest in a cocoa-nut husk and laid one egg, but afterwards deserted. HAYWARD W. MATHIAS.

Members' Gathering at the Zoo.

It may interest our members to know that the second meeting at the Zoo that was arranged for at the last Palace Show and announced in last month's "*Bird Notes*" took place on Saturday, 7th May. The weather in the earlier part of the day was very unsettled and stormy, and this, no doubt, deterred some from joining those who had the temerity to take their chance in this respect. The afternoon and early evening were fine though cold, so that those who had made up the party were agreed that a most enjoyable and instructive time had been spent among the birds. Our party was piloted by our esteemed Editor, Wesley T. Page, Esq. At tea our party was increased by our esteemed member, F. Finn, Esq., and a most interesting and instructive time was spent in exchanging experiences and discussing various avicultural topics, very interesting were some anecdotes of Indian birds related by Mr. Finn. We made a thorough inspection of the birds in the Small Bird House as well as the outside aviaries attached thereto. The Tri-coloured Starling came in for general admiration, the colours on the wings being beautifully displayed when in flight. The Birds of Paradise were fast coming into colour especially The Lawes, two new Pigmy Owls, Tanagers, Sugar Birds, Cardinals, Finches, and last but not least the African Zosterops were greatly admired. The Western Aviaries were next visited, here we were conducted through the different aviaries and so had an exceptional opportunity of inspecting their respective occupants. The Fantailed Flycatcher which caught mealworms in most graceful and approved fashion, a Black-winged Grackle which was exceedingly tame, running over each of us in turn, the mud nest of the Pied Grallina, built upon a wooden bracket, and a number of other birds too numerous to mention, that were tame enough to come close to us at the sight of a mealworm, made our visit to this series of aviaries both interesting and instructive.

After tea we paid a visit to the Parrot House, Pheasantries, and the new quarters (not yet completed) for the vultures, and also to the Insect House, and then finished our visit to the Gardens by watching the birds in the Waders' Aviary. The Ruffs, &c., display being extremely entertaining ; in fact we found it difficult to leave a scene so full of strange antics and boisterous demeanour.

Before closing these brief notes I should like to express the indebtedness of the members of our party to our friend, Mr. Page for his self-denying efforts on our behalf to make our visit to the Zoo an occasion of considerable pleasure as well as being an education to most of us. We all expressed at parting that we hoped we should soon have the pleasure of again meeting under similar auspices, and I am glad to learn that it is being arranged to have another such gathering sometime in June next.

W. T. ROGERS.

The first of these meetings was equally successful and enjoyable ; the time was all too short and a desire for another similar gathering (mid-week and for the whole day if possible) to be arranged for. I shall be glad if those able to attend such a gathering, say in July, would promptly communicate with me so that a convenient date may be decided upon.

WESLEY T. PAGE.

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when they are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

Mr. Gray will be willing to examine living birds (including poultry, game, aviary, and cage-birds), and give advice as to the treatment of any disease they may have, for a fee of 5s. each bird, the owner taking all risks and paying the carriage both ways.

Zebra Finch ♂ (Mrs. Pattison-Yeoman). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Pennant Parrakeet (Wm. Shore Baily). Cause of death, pneumonia. Freshly imported or newly purchased birds should not be exposed in an out-door aviary until the weather has become genial and dry.

Many-Coloured Parrakeet ♂ (G. B. Wright). Cause of death, inflammation of the bowels. This is a very common complaint in breeding hens when exposed to the chilly weather of spring.

Gouldian Finch ♀ (G. Rice). Cause of death, pneumonia. This disease has killed the majority of freshly imported Gouldian Finches, especially when coming from the stuffy, foul and over-heated birdshops. I cannot say the complaint is infectious; at least, not to British Birds kept with the sick birds or fed on the cleanings of their cages. I believe it is merely a climatic malady coupled with rough treatment and chills, which the birds are subjected to after landing in this country.

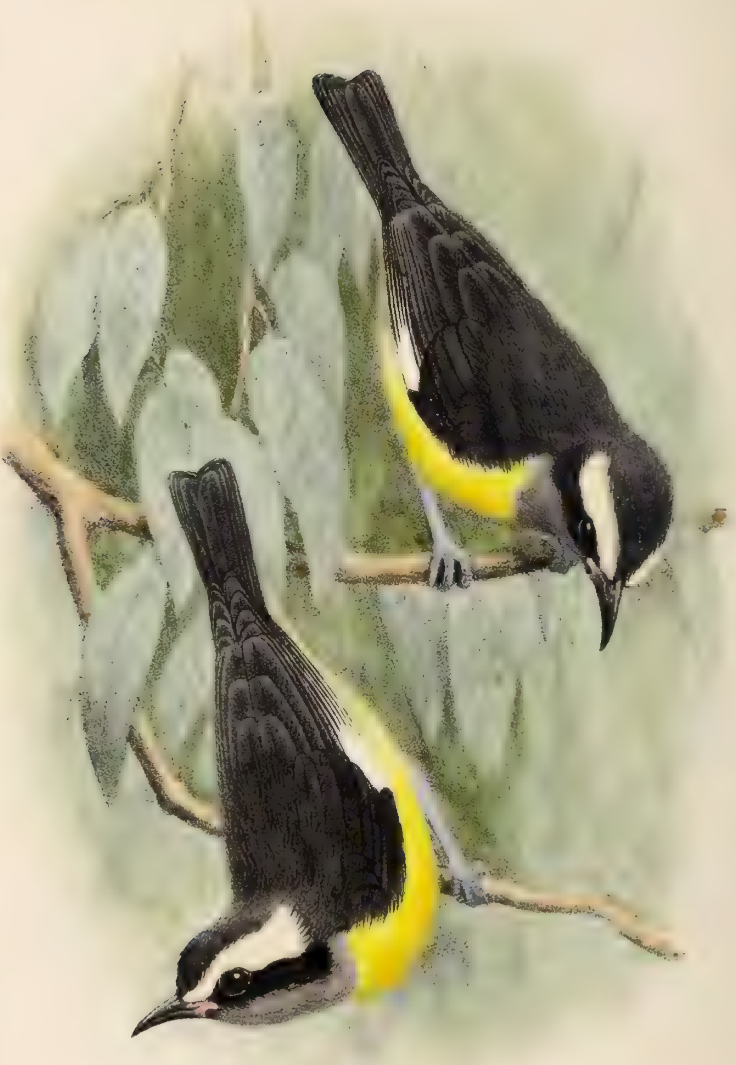
Answered by Post.—W. R. Temple, Esq. and H. W. Mathias, Esq.

A Goose has been received but the name and address of the sender has been withheld.

Tuberculosis in a Hawk. In a few numbers back I recorded the post mortem lesions in a case of pulmonary tuberculosis in a Pennant Parrakeet, sent by one of our members. Inadvertently my surgery attendant gave the breast of this creature to a tame Kestrel Hawk in my possession. In less than six weeks this bird died and on post mortem examination the liver was found crammed with tubercles—hardly a part was left unaffected. There were also tubercles in other visceral parts. The lesions contained the bacillus tuberculosis. This was verified by a pathologist of undoubted eminence especially on the question of this disease.

In a paper devoted to Cage Birds it is often recorded in the Post Mortem column that this or that Canary died of tuberculosis. No doubt the writer, who has neither had scientific nor professional training, in fact is neither a medical man nor a veterinary surgeon, has mistaken the lesions of bird-fever for those of tuberculosis, which can only be verified by a microscopical examination after the morbid parts have undergone a special staining process. In the course of my post mortem experience I have come across hundreds of tubercular looking lesions in birds that were not due to the bacillus tuberculosis, and up to now never encountered a case of tuberculosis in a Canary. Drs. Clarke and Creswell had the same experience. I merely mention this to show how easily the public are gulled by people who assume knowledge they do not possess.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



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BLACK & YELLOW CREEPER.

Certhiola flaveola

From living specimens in the possession of A Sutcliffe Esq^re

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

A Holiday in the West Indies.

BY A. SUTCLIFFE.

(Continued from page 142).

BLACK AND YELLOW CREEPER (BANANA QUIT).

(*Certhiola flaveola*).

With the lifelike plate of this beautiful little Creeper, by Mr. Goodchild, accompanying this article, a written description is unnecessary. It is very common in Jamaica and may be found in almost any garden, where it is usually seen in twos and threes. On one occasion I saw seven on a flowering bush near Spanish Town, but this number is quite unusual. The first time I saw them was during the heavy rain, when a pair visited a climbing plant under the verandah of the Hotel at St. Andrews, and I there and then determined that if possible I would take some home. They are distributed all over the Island, both on Mountains and Lowlands. Their fearless demeanour and vivacious habits make them very noticeable and of great interest. The sexes are very similar ; the hen is slightly smaller than the cock and her colours paler and not so well defined. I was fortunate enough to secure a dozen of these charming little fellows, four days before one of the ships sailed. I made the necessary arrangements for getting them aboard along with some Rufous-throated Tanagers and Blue Quits (*Pyrrhuphonia jamaica*) ; eleven were shipped in care of the butcher and were despatched to my friend Mr. R. Suggitt. Seven survived the sea and land journey, but although I am sure every care was given to them, three others died. The four survivers are fortunately two true pairs. They were brought over on sweetened milk-sop and bananas. Upon arrival they were fed on grapes, bananas, condensed milk and honey with B.C. or crushed biscuit added. Both pairs are now in perfect condition. They are in every way charming little creatures in captivity, their demeanour and voices are very tit-like, but they are by no means amiable and are constantly bickering among themselves. They are quite easily kept in health and good plumage once they have recovered from the hardships of importation and are hardy enough to turn into a well sheltered out-door avairy. I cannot do better than quote Gosse in "Birds of Jamaica."

"Scarcely larger than the average size of the Humming-birds, this
"little creeper is often seen in company with them, probing the same
"flowers, and for the same purpose, but in a very different manner.
"Instead of hovering in front of each blossom, a task to which his short
"wings would be utterly incompetent, the Quit alights on the tree, and
"proceeds, in the most business-like manner, to peep into the flowers,
"hopping actively from twig to twig, and throwing the body into all
"positions, often clinging by the feet with the back downwards, the better
"to reach the interior of a blossom, with his curved beak and pencilled
"tongue. The minute insects which are always found in the interior of
"flowers are the object of his search, and the reward of his perseverence.
"Unsuspectingly familiar, these birds often resort to the blossoming
"shrubs of gardens and yards. A large Moringo tree, that is all through
"the year profusely set with fragrant spikes of bloom, is a favourite resort
"both of these and the Humming-birds. One within a few feet of my
"window, is, while I write this note, being carefully scrutinised by two
"active little creatures, that pursue their examination with a zeal perfectly
"undisturbed by my looking on, while the same blossoms are rifled on one
"side by a minute Humming-bird, and on the other by that gorgeous butter-
"fly *Urania sloaneus*: an interesting association! The Quit often utters a
"soft, sibilant note as it peeps about. The nest of this bird is very
"frequently, perhaps usually, built in those low trees and bushes, from
"whose twigs pend the paper nests of the Brown Wasps, and in close
"contiguity with them. The Grass Quits are said to manifest the same
"predilection: it is a singular exercise of instinct, almost of reason; for
"the object is doubtless the defence afforded by the presence of the
"formidable insects, but upon what terms the league of amity is contracted
"between the neighbours, I am ignorant.

"It is in the month of May, June and July that the Creeper performs
"the business of incubation. On the 4th of May as I was riding to
"Savanna le Mar, I observed a Banana Quit with a bit of silk-cotton in
"her beak; and on searching, I found a nest just commenced in a sage-
"bush (*Lantana camara*). The structure, though but a skeleton, was
"evidently about to be a dome, and so far, was constructed of silk-cotton.
"Since then I have seen several completed nests. One now before me is
"in the form of a globe with a small opening below the side. The walls
"are very thick composed of dry grass, intermixed irregularly with the
"down of *Asclepias*. It appeared to have been forsaken from my having
"paid it too much attention. It was fixed between the twigs of a branch

"of a *Bauhinia* that projected over the high road near Content, in St. "Elizabeths. Another which I found at the end of June in a sage-bush "was of the same structure; in this were two eggs, greenish white thickly "but indefinitely dashed with reddish at the larger end Robinson states "the dimensions thus: 'the length about 3½ eights, the diameter about "2½ eights' but I find my specimens much larger than this: accurate "measurement giving ⅝ inch by rather less than ½ inch."

(*To be continued.*)

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from p. 146.*)

Before leaving this beautiful and noteworthy species I must again quote from Captain Boyd Alexander's "From the Niger to the Nile," as his description of a breeding colony of these Bee-eaters is so picturesque and gives a much better idea of such a place and the habits of the birds than any words of mine could. "This (the breeding place) was situated," he writes, "in a high part of the bank. The nest-holes, about three inches in diameter and close to one another, were in several rows and ran into the sandy stratum; there must have been at least 60 of them, which gave to the bank the appearance of having been pitted with bullets. On the approach of our boats a head poked out from every hole and the next moment a flare of glorious red birds burst out across the water, screeching defiance in our faces. Dazed by their sudden coming into the glare, they circled and hung in the air so close to us that it would have been easy enough to knock them over with sticks, or as they clung to the sandy banks pelt them with stones.

"As I had never found their eggs before, I attempted to dig out a nest, but had reluctantly to give it up, as the hole went more than six feet into the bank. All kinds of insects form the prey of these birds. Once I shot one with its mouth so stuffed with butterflies that it appeared to me marvellous that it had not been choked.

"When a bush-fire is raging, it is an extraordinary sight to see Bee-eaters flock to the scene and show a reckless fearlessness by flying right into the flames after their prey. I remember once picking up a bird with its wings so singed that it was unable to fly."

UPUPIDAE.

Upupa epops. HOOPOE.

Range. Europe, Asia, North-east Africa. (*H.L.*) West and North-east Africa (*Shelley*).

The Hoopoe is, I should think, a fairly regular winter visitor to the Gambia, especially to the more inland parts, as nearly every year I have notes of having seen at least two or three in various places at this season, and it is also quite well-known to the natives and is named in each of the leading native languages of the Protectorate, Mandingo and Joloff; in the former it is called "Allala-nansingo" (as is also *Prionops*), in the latter "Juba." They are generally seen singly or in pairs looking for food on the ground where they strut about with a very starling-like gait, or perched on a tree or tall bush, where the beautiful crest and elegant shape show to the best advantage.

Irrisor erythrorhynchus. **RED-BILLED WOOD-HOOPOE.**

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Nigeria: North-east and Equatorial Africa (*H.L.*

This species, a black bird with white wing-marks, a fan-shaped tail and long curved bill, red, or partly red, and partly black, is very common and found everywhere throughout the country from the gardens of Bathurst to the most inland confines of our territory. They move about the bush in noisy chattering parties of about a dozen, flitting from tree to tree, always progressing slowly forward, with rather feeble flight and hesitating wings, searching the trunks and branches for insects, tapping and pecking the bark with their long bills, like Woodpeckers, and climbing about the tree-trunks and branches, or at times hanging on with the support of their tails to a vertical bough like so many overgrown ink-dipped Tree-creepers. Even in the breeding season in the early part of the rains (July), one still sees these birds in parties as at other times, for they breed in company making use of holes in trees. In one tree, from which two down-covered young were brought me, there were three other nests of these birds, all in holes of the main trunk, the lowest at least twenty feet from the ground. One of these holes had previously been occupied by a pair of Hornbills as a nesting-site and was about eighteen inches deep and had an opening which easily admitted the hand and arm; but the others were much more protected, the entrance holes being only just big enough to admit the parents, that is about two inches in diameter. I rather expected to find the exterior of the nest extremely foul from the accumulation of excrement and food-refuse dropped about by the old birds, but this was by no means the case; although the interior, or rather the two young ones from the interior, were dirty and evil smelling, and no doubt the exterior would have been as bad, if it had not been so frequently and thoroughly washed down by the almost daily rain of the season, which comes down in sheets that almost clean up an ordinary coast town, much more so, therefore, the comparatively trifling mess a few small birds can make.

During life, or when recently shot, these birds have a peculiar mousey smell, from which they get the name of "Stinking Bird," which is what they are commonly called by the English-speaking people here. Their Mandingo name is "Kadádda," an attempt at an imitation of their cry.

The following description is taken from three examples shot Dec. 18, 1908:-

Adult male. Head and all upper parts black glossed with green and blue, and with some tinge of purple in certain lights, but the lower back is dull black with scarcely any gloss; upper tail coverts black with a blue gloss towards the ends of the feathers; wings dark metallic green, all primaries

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In last year's volume of the "Ibis" there was a woodcut of this species taken from a recent work on East Africa, "On Safari." This gave a most life-like and convincing picture of the Wood hoopoe as seen in life, and was certainly one of the best black and white sketches of bird-life I have ever seen.

with a white spot, on the first two the spot is confined to the inner web only, on the third the white slightly encroaches on the outer web as well, on the remainder it extends right across both webs; the secondaries are without any white. Some of the primary coverts tipped with white, forming a single spot, the other coverts have a bluer gloss than the back, &c. Tail wedged shaped and much graduated, the four centre feathers metallic dark-blue throughout, the others a greener blue with a separate white spot on each web near the end. Below from chin to vent, like the back but with scarcely any gloss. Bill generally red, darker along the culmen, but its colour is very variable: in some specimens it is black with a red tinge towards the base and there is every gradation between these two extremes, both of which have been represented in the different examples I have shot. Legs pink-red with a waxy look. Iris dark brown.

Female. Slightly smaller, I think, than the male and with a shorter and straighter bill.

Length of a definite male (from dissection), 17¾ inches; bill, 2 and one-sixteenth inches: of a female 16 inches, bill 1⅝ inches. Later on, however, I got a bird which I am almost certain, from dissection, was a hen; this measured 17½ inches and had a bill nearly two inches long (? do very old hens get long bills ?). Many of the birds have all the throat and chin feathers tipped with brown; these are probably young birds, but from those I have examined I think more females than males have these brown edges.

Scoptelus aterrimus.

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

This, another member of the sub-family, *Irrisorinae*, the Wood-Hoopoes, is much rarer here than the preceding, and I have only once seen a *single individual (at Kudang, Dec., 1906), when I recognised it as it sat preening its feathers on the dead top of a small tree, from its similarity in shape and build to its larger relation, of which it is a miniature (half-size) edition. Unlike them it does not go about in parties, but singly or in pairs. The following description is from the British Museum Catalogue.

Adult (? female): Glossy purple, more steel blue on the central portion of the crown, wings and tail; under surface from throat to vent blacker; wing with central white band, the outer webs of first, second and third quills, black; tips of all quills grey with darker edges; outermost primary coverts steel blue, the next six white. Bill dark brown; feet black. Length 8·8 inches. The young like the adult, but browner on the sides of the head and whole under surface.

The male probably has the primaries nearly wholly steel-blue towards the tips with hardly a trace of the grey colour of the hen.

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*Curiously enough I saw another single example of *Scoptelus* in March this year (1910) at the same place, Kudang, and almost on the same tree

(*To be continued.*)

The Aviaries and Birds at Benham Valence.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

Continued from page 131.

It will be necessary for me to pass the remaining birds in somewhat rapid review. However I hope Mr. Astley will kindly favour us with accounts of some of the species a little later.

DOVES : These were represented by Violet-necked, Jamaica Partridge, Tambourine and Cuban Blue-crowned, while twenty-four Palm Doves were at liberty about the grounds, many of them were in evidence and evidently quite at home among the various trees, while we were taking our observations of the aviaries and birds -I should say they would most certainly breed and increase during the summer.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, QUAIL, ETC. : I am also reluctant to pass with merely a mention, the following interesting species : Hose's Bamboo Partridge (very uncommon), Cuban Colins, Chinese Painted Quails and Mountain Crested Quails. The most rare and interesting among this group, being a pair of newly acquired Rock Pheasants (*Ptilopachys fuscus*) ; these are very rare, but I must reluctantly pass them with the following brief note : They resemble Duckwing Game Bantam Hens, they carry their tails like a Guan—on the neck are hackle feathers, yellowish-brown with whitish margins ; the upper breast and flanks are the same colour ; the other parts are dullish brown tinged with rufous ; skin round the eyes, legs and feet red. A most interesting species which I trust our esteemed member will have the good fortune to breed

PARRAKEETS : I find there are a few species of which I have made no mention and which considerations of space forbid me to describe in these notes, much as I desire to, so I must leave them in the form of a list.

UVŒAN PARRAKEETS (*Nymphicus uvæensis*), a beautiful and uncommon species, not yet fully understoood in captivity. A coloured plate of this species will appear in the course of the present volume.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA PARRAKEET (*Spathopterus Alexandræ*). Very rare, a few have recently been offered by two well known dealers.

Stanley Parrakeet (*Platycercus icterotis*).

King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*).

Blood-winged Parrakeet (*Psittes erythropterus*).

Abyssinian Love Bird (*Agapornis taranta*), very rare, all lovely and interesting species, and in perfect plumage.

WHITE-CRESTED TURACO (*Turacus corythaix*): This exquisite and uncommon species cannot be passed with a bare mention. This species would appear distinguished in any company and would grace any aviary. It is also known as the Knysna Plaintain Eater or Lourie—the beautiful rich green of its soft plumage, relieved by the white-tipped crest and eye streaks and the lovely red of the under-wing plumage, cannot be done justice to in a pen and ink picture. Their principal diet in captivity is fruit, and at the Zoo I have seen them take mealworms and the soft-food mixture. They have nested thrice with Mr. Astley, but each time have failed to rear the young. The nest was constructed on a hamper lid, fixed among some branches in a secluded corner of the aviary, about twelve feet from the ground. We wish Mr. Astley a happier ending to their efforts this season.

Mr. Astley feeds them on boiled rice, potato and carrot, with strawberries, cherries, grapes, banana and occasionally melon. From their exquisite plumage and vigorous condition (they are out of doors all the year round, but there is a heated shelter attached to their flight), one can only deduce that it is "just about right."

MAGPIE TANAGERS (*Cissopis leveriana*): A very fine pair of this species occupied one of the inner enclosures; this pair nested last season and hatched out one or more chicks but failed to rear them. Other species of the *Tanagridæ* may be clad in more glowing colours, but most certainly none have a finer appearance; fine under any conditions but especially so when they are on the wing, their long tails being then displayed to full advantage. A black and white figure of the larger species (*C. major*) appeared in Vol. vi., "*Bird Notes*," p. 77.

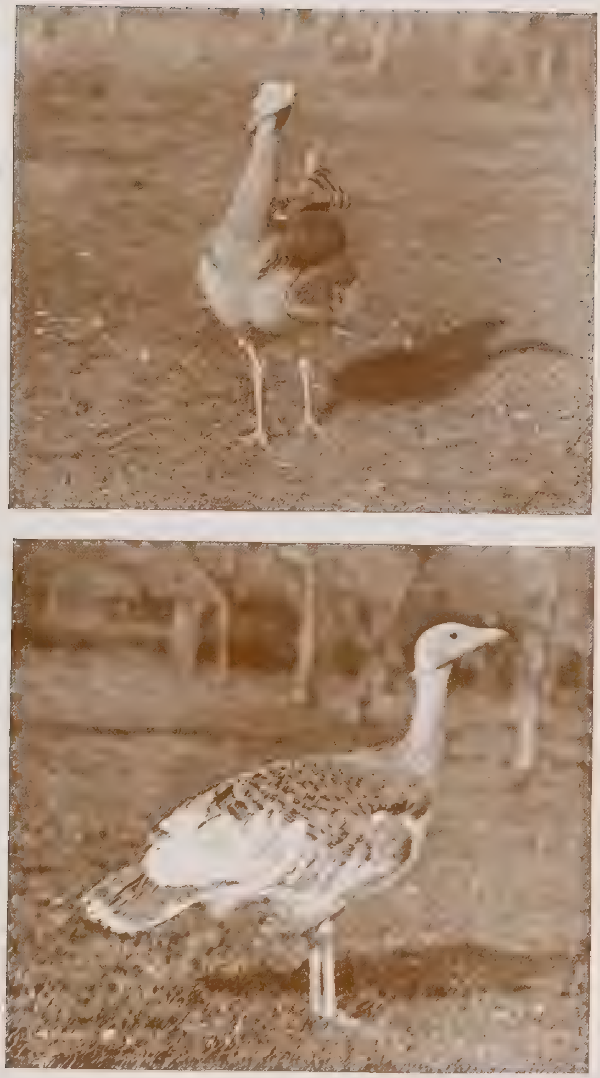
GREAT BUSTARDS (*Otis tárda*, Linn.). A pinioned pair of this fine species, the female of which had been lent to Mr. Astley by Mr. Trevor-Battye, roamed about at liberty in a large orchard; the hen bird celebrated our advent into their enclosure by stretching out her wings and rushing blindly across the orchard, bashing, in a manner quite characteristic of the species into the first obstacle that came into her way, viz., a tree trunk—fortunately no serious damage appeared to be done. The male was a fine bold bird, inviting attention, but its rapid strutting to and fro made the taking of the photos accompanying these notes by no means an easy task. A rather peculiar effect is given to one of them by the whiskers of the bird being blown across its beak at the moment of exposure. He was a fine bird, and the beautiful fawn-browns and pure whites of his plumage must be seen to be appreciated. I can only speak of the male for the female hid herself away after her accident, but from the glimpse I had of her before this occurred, it appeared to me that she was a fine specimen.

WHITE-WINGED TRUMPETER : A very interesting group of birds, which might be almost summed up as miniature Cranes. It has been my strong desire to possess a pair of these birds since I saw the one Mr. E. W. Harper brought over with him from British Guiana about three years ago, for more desirable birds for a large lawn or orchard paddock I do not know, and as I hope in the near future to possess this accommodation, I trust the opportunity of gratifying my desire will not be long delayed. The accompanying photo-reproduction will indicate the shape and form of the birds, which will follow you about like a dog ; nevertheless with all this, it was most difficult to get a photo, as he was always shifting at the crucial moment, and refused to pose in rational manner, and out of three lightning snaps the one reproduced (not very satisfactory) was the only possible one. The plumage is velvety black and pure white, the areas of which are clearly indicated on the photo and by its popular name. There were also in the enclosure several perfect specimens of the Black-breasted Guan.

WATERFOWL.

These notes are reaching such an inordinate length that I feel I must, after briefly describing the enclosures content myself with a mere list.

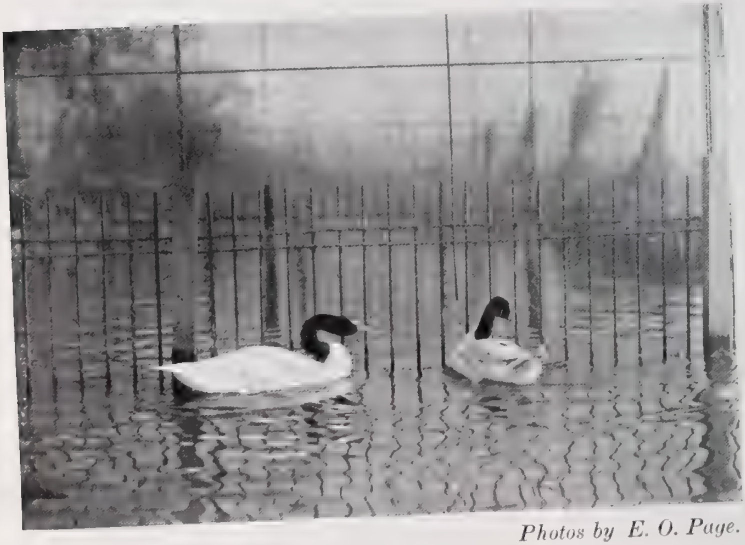
THE WATER FOWL AVIARIES : These consist of a long length of the stream running through the park, being railed and netted in, and divided up into roomy sections. A portion of both sides of the bank was enclosed—say 6 ft. on one side and 30 or more feet on the other, while the stream would be about 20 feet



Photos by E. O. Page.

The Great Bustard.
Otis tárda (Linn.)

Black-necked Swans.
Sitting bird incubating six eggs.



Photos by E. O. Page.

Young Black-necked Swans.
Hatched July, 1909.

Photo by E. O. Page.

White-winged Trumpeter.

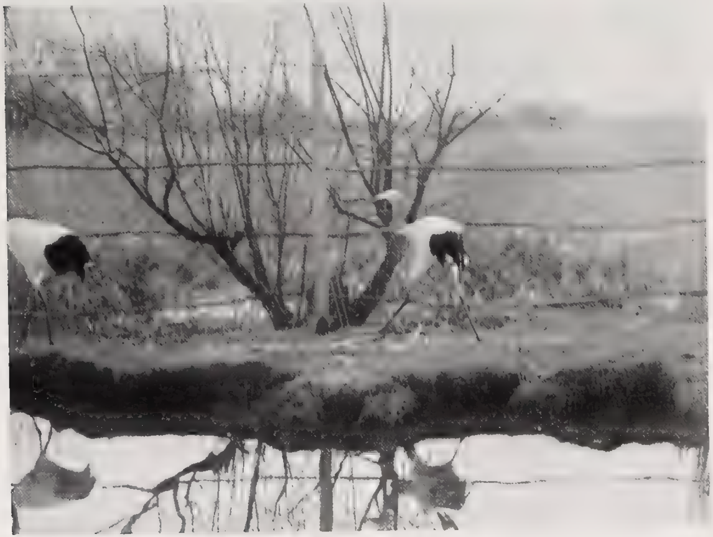


Photo by E. O. Page.

White-necked Crane

wide. This will, with the aid of the photo-reproductions, indicate what splendid quarters are allocated to these birds, of which there is a very fine and varied series. In the varied hues of their plumage nearly every colour of the rainbow is represented.

The Waterfowl were also represented by a large number of full winged Ducks, etc., at liberty upon the large lake opposite the house, and by no means the least interesting feature of my visit was the opportunity to observe the wing evolutions of many species in the air and the varied manner in which each alighted upon the waters of the lake.

Some of the iridescent plumage of the various species of Teal will linger long in my memory, several species of which are beautiful almost beyond description.

DUCKS : Mandarin, Summer, Shoveller. Rosy-billed, Chiloe Widgeon, Tufted and Pintail ; White-eye Ferruginous and Crested Pochards ; Common and Ruddy Sheldncks, Bahama, Variegated and Japanese Teal.

GEESE : Canadian, Bernicle, Snow, Maned and six Ruddy-headed Bernicles, a very rare species from the Falkland Islands.

IBISES : Australian Straw-necked, a very beautiful species, Black-headed (Indian) and White.

CRANES : European, Australian, Sarus, White Asiastic, Manchurian, Demoiselle, West African Crowned, and the very uncommon White-necked. After much hesitation I have reproduced a photo of the latter species, they were in very rapid movement to and fro while the photo was being taken, and we were also compelled to expose against the light, but I think the species of sufficient interest to warrant the inclusion of even so unsatisfactory a result.

SWANS : Two species were represented here, viz., the Black and the Black-necked ; of the latter species two photographic reproductions accompany these notes, viz., the adult pair which were engaged in incubating six eggs and two of their young which were hatched July 1909. The latter photo had to be taken at very high speed as the young birds (a very fine couple) were wildly swimming to and fro while the exposure was being made.

I must also make passing mention of a very fine Black Stork and two very rare Reddish Egrets, the two latter being I think immature birds and a recent acquisition.

Mr. Astley's Nightingales did not favour me with their exquisite melody.

Our native avifauna is also largely represented in the park, various marshy areas of which, particularly supply accommodation for many uncommon species, and I am hoping that at no distant date Mr. Astley will give us some account of the species nesting on the estate (Sir R. Sutton's), also some account of the uncommon species occupying the aviaries.

I feel that some apology is due to the members for the length of these notes, my excuse must be that I have sought to make them of more than passing interest, with I hope some small measure of success.

Foreign Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(continued from page 139).

CHAPTER III.—Sub-family EUPHONIINÆ.

CHLOROPHONIA : The members of this sub-family all need careful treatment as new arrivals and should be put on the general diet already given, They must for some weeks be kept in strict quarantine and have a liberal supply of milk sop, containing either Mellin's Food or Scott's Emulsion.

If living specimens of *Chlorophonia* and *Euphonia* are compared it will be seen at once that the two genera are almost identical, practically the brilliant grass-greens of *Chlorophonia* are the principal distinction, which however is sufficiently striking to obviate all difficulty in placing them ; structurally they are almost identical, the same also applies to their geographical range. *Chlorophonia* ranges from S. Mexico to S. Brazil and Bolivia.

There is another difficulty also with this genus and that is popular names to identify them by, at present the whole nine species (that is such as have been imported, as to how many species have already reached reached this country alive, I shall not attempt to state, as identification—apart from comparing the living birds with named skins—is difficult indeed) are popularly known as All Green or Necklace Tanagers, but I shall attempt to give them popular names, using the B.M.C. key to the species as a base.........perhaps I had better quote the key *in extenso* and put the suggested popular name alongside the species, reserving the existing name All Green for *viridis*, though its plumage is green, blue, and yellow.

Key to the Species (B.M.C., Vol. xi).	Suggested Popular Name.
" A. Cap bright green ...."	
" a. Bill black ...."	
" a′ Front green.."	
" a″ Rump blue ...."	
" belly pale yellow ....1. *viridis*"	All Green Chloro Tanager
" belly dark yellow ....2. *longipennis*"	Yellow-brested ,, ,,
" b″ Rump green ....3. *torrejoni*"	Green-rumped ,, ,,
" b′ Front yellow ...."	
" interscapulium green ....4. *frontalis*"	Yellow-fronted ,, ,,
" interscapulium blue............5. *roraimæ*"	Roraima Mountain ,, ,,
" b. Bill yellow ....6. *flavirostris*"	Yellow-billed ,, ,,
" B. Cap bright blue ....7. *pretrii*"	Blue-capped ,, ,,
" C. Cap green, with a bright blue nuchal spot	
" c. Superciliaries green............8. *occipitalis*"	Green-capped ,, ,,
" d. Superciliaries yellow.........9. *callophyrs*"	Yellow-naped ,, ,,

The above names are not altogether satisfactory, but this is unavoidable and used in conjunction with the above key, should do something to eliminate the present confusion, and with the prefix "Chloro," that is, calling this genus Chloro Tanagers, the names given are not likely to clash with those of the other Tanagrine genera. Faulty as the above arrangement is, if all aviculturists fall into line, it will be less confusing than the present custom, and it is at any rate a definite basis to work from; based as it is, not upon the general colouration, which is very similar throughout the genus, *but upon the distinguishing feature of each species*. I venture to hope all F.B.C. members will adopt the above names when describing or exhibiting their birds and thus put an end to one common or popular name for nine species.

Whether the prefix Chloro becomes general or not, the names allotted to the respective species are as descriptive as circumstances permit—there is really no one distinguishing colour that is common to the first six species and the same difficulty largely prevails with the last three also. Possibly some may say that with the prefix the names are too cumbersome, but if thereby confusion with the popular names of other sections of the TANAGRIDÆ is avoided, it is worth while putting up with the inconvenience, besides, generally they can be spoken of as All Green Chloro, etc., and to this end I have left Chloro and Tanager unconnected.

ALL GREEN CHLORO TANAGER (*C. viridis*): All Green is a misnomer, as will be seen from the description, yet as this is the one species of this group that has been imported in some numbers it would be very ill advised to change the name it has been known by for so long. That it is not fragile, once it is established, has been abundantly proved by our esteemed member, Mrs. Anningson, who during the inclement season of 1909 kept this species in a specially constructed out-door aviary with Sugar Birds and other Tanagers, and when I had the privilege of seeing them last October, the fittest of the whole group was a splendid specimen of this species. But I am bound to admit new arrivals are very fragile and must be carefully nursed at first, and in conjunction with the diet already advised, should be kept in warm, well lighted and ventilated quarters, till they become acclimatised. The whole of the genus is beautiful beyond description and well deserve their popularity. The above notes as regards treatment are applicable to the whole genus and need not be repeated.

Description (♂). Plumage very lustrous and shining; head and neck bright grass-green; back, rump, upper tail-coverts, and circle round eye, turquoise-blue; wings and tail black, edged with green, the wing-coverts strongly suffused with blue; abdomen lightish chrome-yellow; inner margins of quills white; bill plumbeous; feet brownish-flesh colour. Total length 4½ inches, tail 1½ inches.

(♀). The colour areas are very similar but less lustrous; the yellow of the abdomen is washed with green, and the blue of the upper surface is confined to the back of the neck and rump.

It is a native of South Eastern Brazil.

YELLOW-BELLIED CHLORO TANAGER (*C. longipennis*): This is very similar to *C. viridis*, and is probably not entitled to specific distinction; Dr. P. L. Sclater held this view, but for lack of material hesitated to unite it with *C. viridis*. The probability is that it is merely a local race.

Practically the only distinction between the two is that the yellow of the abdomen is of a darker and richer hue, and the colour areas, especially of the under surface, are more sharply defined.

It is a native of Colombia and Ecuador.

GREEN-RUMPED CHLORO TANAGER (*C. torrejoni*): While bearing a general resemblance to the two preceding species, it can be readily distinguished from same by its bright green rump.

It ranges over Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia.

Description (♂). Plumage silken and lustrous, brilliant grass-green; rump brighter green; broad patch on hind neck and circle round eye turquoise-blue; middle of abdomen yellow, greenish at sides and ventral region; inner margins of wing-quills white; bill dark horn-brown; legs and feet brownish. Total length 3¾ inches, tail 1⅜ inches.

(♀). Similar, but less brilliant.

YELLOW-FRONTED CHLORO TANAGER (*C. frontalis*): This and the next species are distinguished by having a yellow-frontal band, but it is broader and more distinct in *frontalis* than in *roraimæ*.

Description (♂). Plumage iridescent: brilliant grass-green; broad collar on nape, circle round eyes, rump and upper tail-coverts turquoise-blue; under wing-coverts yellowish-white; inner margin of wing-feathers white; bill horn-brown; legs and feet brownish. Total length 5 inches, tail 1½ inches.

(♀). Very similar but less brilliant, and the blue collar on nape and yellow-frontal band less distinct; the rump is green and the abdomen greenish-yellow.

It is a native of Venezuela.

RORAIMA MOUNTAIN CHLORO TANAGER (*C. roraimæ*): The popular name of this species I have based on the locality it comes from as it appears to be local to the Roraima Mountains, British Guiana.

Description (♂). Plumage iridescent: brilliant grass-green; collar on nape, circle round eyes, rump, and upper tail-coverts turquoise-blue; interscapulium strongly suffused with blue; wings and tail black with green margins; frontal band (forehead) yellow; under wing coverts and inner margins of wing-feathers white; bill horn-brown; legs and feet brownish. Total length 4½ inches, tail 1⅜ inches.

(♀). Very similar but less brilliant; abdomen greenish-yellow; interscapulium green.

YELLOW-BILLED CHLORO TANAGER (*C. flavirostris*): This species is very beautiful and is more entitled to the cognomen All Green than any other member of the genus. I think this species has been imported alive to this country and if I remember rightly two or three specimens were exhibited by Mr. C. P.

Arthur and another exhibitor at one of the Crystal Palace Shows a few years ago, but the species was not recognised at the time. The species is very rare, and at the time (1886) the British Museum Catalogue was compiled, there was but one skin, a ♀ (?) which is described below :

> "Uniform bright grass-green ; wings and tail black, edged with "similar green ; below rather paler ; middle of belly and crissum pale "yellow ; under wing coverts and inner margins of wing-feathers white ; "eye-circlet and chin-spot pale yellow ; bill, legs, and feet, yellow. "Whole length 4 inches, wing 2·3, tail 1·2. (B.M.C.)
>
> "Hab., Ecuador.
>
> "The type specimen, which is at present unique, is probably a "female. It is at once distinguished by its yellow bill and the narrow "circlet of yellow feathers round the eye." (B.M.C., Vol. xi.)

BLUE-CAPPED CHLORO TANAGER (*C. pretrii*) : This and the following two species differ materially from those that have been previously described—the colouration is quite distinct, with even more variety, yet with the same colours slightly differently arranged in all three species, making it just as difficult to give a descriptive popular name, as it was with the six preceding species. This species might perhaps have been called Pretrei's Tanager, but as this name is already applied to *Spindalis pretrii*, such would only lead to confusion. It is a very beautiful species and so far I have not seen a living specimen. Very possibly the bill and legs and feet are not correctly described, as these parts seldom retain their natural colour for any lengthy period.

It is a native of Colombia and Venezuela.

Description (♂). Upper surface dark green ; frontal band green, which is divided from the rich blue crown by a thin dark red line, this line is continued over the eyes ; rump bright yellow ; wings and tail black, with broadish green margins ; under surface : throat, neck, and upper breast rich grass-green, divided from the deep chestnut of the abdomen and ventral region by a narrow band of dark maroon ; sides of abdomen bright yellow ; bill black ; legs and feet brown. Total length 5 inches, tail 1½ inches.

(♀). Differs from the male in having the frontal band chestnut, and the abdomen greenish yellow.

GREEN-CAPPED CHLORO TANAGER (*C. occipitalis*). Another lovely species, but no living specimen has yet reached this country, therefore can only be described from skins.

Description (♂). Upper surface brilliant grass-green ; Cap grass-green, with a large blue spot on the hind-head ; narrow neck band pale turquoise-blue ; wings and tail black, with broad green margins: under surface, throat and breast grass-green, with a golden sheen, which is separated from the yellow abdomen and central region by a narrow band of dark maroon: sides of abdomen green: bill slate-colour: legs and feet brown: total length 4 inches, tail 1¾.

Hab. Southern Mexico and Vara Paz (B.M.C.).

YELLOW-NAPED CHLORO TANAGER (*C. callophyrs*). Though very similar in colouration to the two preceding species, it is easily distinguishable from either, by the rich turquoise-blue of the hind-head and the yellow superciliaries—description from skins.

Description (♂). Upper surface brilliant grass-green: wings and tail brownish-black, with broad green margins; hind-head rich torquoise-blue; narrow posterior, neck collar blue with greenish sheen: broad superciliaries, widened on the nape, rich golden-yellow: under surface: throat, neck and breast grass-green, with a golden sheen: a narrow band of dark maroon crosses the lower breast: abdomen bright yellow: sides of abdomen bright green: bill black: legs and feet brown: total length 5 inches, tail 1⅞.

I see from the Zoo list that a specimen, said to be of this species, was received on May 30th, 1904, which I failed to note. The authorities called it the Blue-capped Tanager, which causes me to doubt it being correctly defined, as this species has the cap green and the occiput only turquoise-blue; therefore as Blue-capped is more applicable to *C. pretrii*, I have ventured to name this species as above.

It was presented by Captain Pam.

One can only hope that the time is not distant when the whole of this lovely genus will be known to English Aviculture, and also our knowledge of their wild life and nesting arrangements increased.

EUPHONIA: This genus consists of 33 species as follows:

1. *musica*
2. *insignis*
3. *sclateri*
4. *nigricollis*
5. *elegantissima*
6. *flavifrons*
7. *chlorotica*
8 *affinis*
9. *trinitatis*
10. *xanthogastra*
11. *ruficeps*
12. *luteicapilla*
13. *gracilis*
14. *concinna*
15. *finschi*
16. *saturata*
17. *minuta*
18. *annæ*
19. *fulvicrissa*
20. *violacea*
21. *hirundinacea*
22. *gnatho*
23. *laniirostris*
24. *hypoxantha*
25. *melanura*
26. *rufiventris*
27. *vittata*
28. *pectoralis*
29. *cayana*
30. *gouldi*
31. *mesochrysa*
32. *chrysopasta*
33. *plumbea*

Dr. P. L. Sclater in the B.M.C., divides these into five sections as follows :

Section I.	Species with cap blue, allied to *E. musica*	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
Section II.	Species with cap and belly yellow or red ; throat black, allied to *E. chlorotica*	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.
Section III.	Species with cap yellow and under surface wholly yellow, allied to *E. violacea*	20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.
Section IV.	Species with the whole upper surface and throat shining black, allied to *E. rufiventris*	26, 27, 28, 29.
Section V.—	Species with the upper surface dark olive-green or plumbeous olive. Group of *E. gouldi.*	30, 31, 32, 33.

[To be continued.]

The Transfer of a Choice Collection.

BY H. GOODCHILD, M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 127.)

British birds were represented by but one solitary specimen—a white Skylark, which shared the same cage as the Bengal Pitta, and which was nearly as restless, but although Passerine birds in general were not numerous in the collection, there were still some nice birds both as regards types and individuals. Thus, there were three Yellow-winged Sugar Birds, and a pair of the rarer Purple Sugar Birds, while both the Blue and the glossy-plumaged Black-headed Sugar bird were included.

One large cage, placed by itself in a quiet room, contained a dozen or more of the charming Australian finches: viz., Pectoral, Painted, Ruficauda and Gouldian Finches. In an adjoining room where on my first visit I had seen the Scimitar Babbler* flying loose and taking the extraordinarily long bounds that is characteristic of this species, there were several species of Parrakeets, all enjoying comparative freedom. The one most interesting to me being the now rare Adelaide Parrakeet (*Platycercus adelaidæ*), a female, Mr. Millsum having unfortunately lost the male shortly before my arrival. Here also were pairs of Ring-necked, Yellow-collars, Mealy Rosellas, Crimson-winged and an odd Rock Pebbler Parrakeet.

As showing the interest mine host took (and doubtless still takes) in Lories and Lorikeets. he had pairs of the following birds : Red-collared, Green-naped, Scaly-breasted, Purple-crowned and Mrs. Johnston's Lorikeets, Violet-naped, Red-fronted and Ceram Lories. The Mrs. Johnston's Lorikeets were exhibited at the last Crystal Palace Show. and were figured in black and white in our February issue (p. 33) and described concisely by our esteemed Editor, so that I need not describe their colouration, they were, however, in faultless condition. The Red-fronted Lories* were not the pair exhibited by Mr. Millsum at the Horticultural Hall, but a comparatively recent acquisition, and were very fine.

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* See plate, Vol. vii. B.N. p.p. 214, 215.

Of other Parrakeets there were pairs of Many-colours, and Plum-headed, an odd Mealy Rosella, a Lesser Patagonian Conure (this bird was very tame and interesting); a young Crimson-wing and a pair of All-green Conures (*Conurus leucophthalmus*), an interesting species and by no means common—a brief description may be of general interest: Plumage green, lighter on the underparts, bend of wing red, quills and under tail-coverts golden-olive, naked skin round eyes white, bill yellowish flesh-colour, legs and feet dusky. Total length 13½ inches, of which the tail measures 6½. Habitat: The Amazon Valley, Guiana, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil.

There were two species I should have liked to identify, if I had not been engaged drawing the more pronounced and beautiful types of birds; one was a Parrot, which we both believed to be a *Pionus*, but which was probably immature at the time I saw it, and the other birds were Starlings, which shared an outdoor aviary (one of those depicted in Bird Notes in a former volume) with a Yellow Hangnest, a Palm Tanager, a pair of White-winged Jamaican Doves, a pair of charming Violet-necked Doves (also from Jamaica) and last but not least, a male Golden Pheasant. Of the larger birds of the Order *Psittaci*, there were only a few besides the Ceram or Yellow-backed Lories already mentioned; one of the most interesting being the pair of Purple-capped Lories (*Lorius domicella*), while the most unusual, to most people's minds, would be the pair of Westermann's Eclectus, and the rarest probably the solitary specimen of Everett's Parrot (*Tanygnathus everetti*). The Eclectus is a curious bird— like others of its genus, on account of the remarkable difference in the colouration of the sexes the male being a grass-green for the most part and the female a deep rich chocolate-crimson. Apart from their striking colours, they do not appear to me to be at all interesting birds, and I remember some years ago when making a coloured drawing to appear in the "Proceedings" of the Zoological Society, that one of these birds retired to the further corners of its cage and looked unutterable things at me as I intently looked at it to paint its portrait.

I have not attempted to enumerate all the species in this fine and varied collection, nor yet to number the individuals, as there were over a hundred of them, and some were well known, or commonly kept types, but as no news has come of any calamity like that which robbed Mr. Millsum of the Black-winged Lory and many other choice and rare birds, we may hope that nearly the whole of these birds are now benefiting by their more spacious quarters and the brighter sun of continental Europe, and that the skill, care and knowledge which we know Mr. Millsum possesses, will enable them to enjoy a long life in Mr. Pauvvel's magnificent aviaries at Everberg.

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* See frontispiece Vol. viii. December issne.

NOTE. May issue, p. 123, line 10. -" will contain the finest collection in the world," should read. " will contain one of the finest private collections in the world."

Book Notices and Reviews.

Our Search for a Wilderness. –By Mary Blair Beebe and C. W. Beebe. - Henry Holt and Co., New York. A close perusal of this interesting, practical, and also scientific work, more than confirms what we said in our preliminary notice. This we can best illustrate by one or two extracts of the birds noticed :—

" HOATZINS (*Opisthocomus hoazin* [*Müll*]. An hour later as our dug-" out rounds a sharp bend in the caño, there comes to our ears a series of " rasping cries -hoarse and creaking as unoiled wheels. The glasses show " a flock of large brown, fowl-like birds in a clump of bushes overhanging " the water. Their barred wings, and tall, delicate crests tell us that they " are the birds of all others which we had hoped to see and study. We " are floating within a hundred feet of a flock of Hoatzins--the strange " reptile-like, living fossils which are found only in this part of the world, " which are closely related to no other living birds.

" As we drew near, the birds fluttered through the foliage as if their " wings were broken. We find that this is the usual mode of progression, " and for a most interesting reason. Soon after the Hoatzins are hatched and " while yet unfledged they are able to leave the nest and climb about the " branches, and in this they are greatly aided by the use of the wings as " arms and hands. The three fingers of the wing are each armed with a " reptile-like claw, and at the approach of danger the birds climb actively " about like squirrels or lizards. It has usually been thought that when " they grew up they lose all these reptilian habits and behave as conven-" tional feathered bipeds should. But we find that while, of course, the " fingers are deeply hidden beneath, the long flight feathers of the wing, " yet these very feathers are often used finger-like in forcing aside thick " vines, the birds thus clambering and pushing their way along.

" It was with the keenest delight of the pioneer and discoverer that we " watched these rare creatures. Although they do not nest till until July " and August, yet we found them in the very trees and bushes which held " the remains of last year's nests, thus revealing their sedentary life during "the rest of the year. And day after day and week after week we learned "to know that they would be found in this or that tree and nowhere else; "they were veritable feathered sloths. They feed chiefly upon leaves, but "fish also entered into the bill of fare of at least one individual.

"We shot two, one for the skin and the other for the skeleton, and "we found the plumage in a very worn and ragged condition, the wing "feathers especially so, where the branches and leaves had rubbed and "worn away the barbs. Throughout the noonday heat these birds were "always to be found in the foliage overhanging the water, ready, when "disturbed to flop and thrash a few yards through the mangroves and "bamboos."

"YELLOW-BACKED CASSIQUE (*Cacicus persicus* [*Linn.*] One of the first "things which attracted our attention were the Orioles or Cassiques great "black and yellow beauties with whitish beaks and an infinitely varied "vocabulary. In the north our eyes were gladdened by the sight of a "single pair of Orioles flying about their nest in the elm; here in a single "tree were sometimes over one hundred and fifty inhabitated nests* most of "which were two feet or more in length. The more we watched these "birds the more interesting they became. They showed a real intelligence "in the selection of a site for their nests. Monkeys, tree snakes, opossum "and other bird-eating creatures were numerous hereabouts . . . . "to conceal their nest successfully would be impossible. So their houses "are swung out in the full view of all. But one or two precautions are always taken. Either the birds choose a solitary tree which fairly overhangs some thatched hut, or else the colony is close about one of the great "wasps' nests which are seen here and there high up among the branches "of the forest."

"The Indian and native Venezuelans never trouble the birds, which "have been quick to realize and take advantage of this fact, and weave "their nests and rear their young almost within arm's length of the "thatched roofs. No monkey dares venture here, and the mongrel dogs "keep off all the small canivores."

"But a colony of Cassiques which chooses to live in the jungle itself "would have short shrift, were it not for the strange communal guardianship of the wasps. These insects are usually large and venomous, and "one sting would be enough to kill a bird; indeed, a fierce fever often ensues when a man has been stung by half-a-dozen. So the birds must in "some wonderful way be immune to the attacks of the wasps . . . . "although the Cassiques cannot have learned from experience of the terrible wounds which the wasps can inflict, yet they are keenly alive to the "advantages to be derived from close association with them."

"The wasps nest is built far out on the tip of the limb of some "forest tree, and the long pendent homes of the Cassiques are placed close "to it, sometimes eight or ten on the same branch, and others on neighbouring limbs, so near that the homes of birds and insects rattle against "each other when the wind blows."

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* Very similar in form to the nest of Yellow Hangnest, figured in Vol. vii., p. 54.

"One such community was placed rather near the ground, where we "could watch the inhabitants closely. Frequently when one or two of the "big birds returned to their nests with a rush and a headlong plunge into "the entrance, the whole branch shook violently. Yet the wasps showed no "excitement or alarm: their subdued buzzing did not rise in tone. But "when I reached up and moved the branch gently downwards, the angry "hum which came forth sent me into the underbrush in haste. From "a safe distance I could see the wasps circling about in quick spurts "which meant trouble to any intruder, while the Cassiques squeaked and "screamed their loudest . . . . . . The nests are beautifully woven, of "very tough palm leaf shreds and grain stems, in shape like tall vases "bulging at the bottom to allow room for the eggs and young birds, with "an entrance at the side near the top. . . . . . . Those nests which were "already deserted or with young ready to fly had simple rounded tops "arching over to protect the entrance from the sun; but in the nests "which were in process of construction, now at the beginning of the rainy "season (April) there appeared an additional chamber with a dense roof of "thatch, in which one of the parents, the male at least in one case, passed "the nights safe from the torrents of sudden rain."

These two extracts must suffice, as indicating the entrancing interest of the book for all bird lovers, but similar accounts of the whole fauna of the districts visited appear photographic reproductions of great merit and interest adorn almost every page, and we strongly recommend our readers to procure a copy at once it is a book which will be read again and again, and also be used as a work of reference.

Eggs and Nests of British Birds.—By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S., etc., with coloured reproductions of 154 eggs from nature in twenty plates, and with reproductions of 74 eggs in half-tone and other illustrations. Hutchinson & Co., Paternoster Row, London.

This is really an interesting and well arranged book, and is divided into seven parts.

Part I.—In Towns and Gardens.
Part II.—By Wayside and Woodland.
Part III.—By Wayside and Woodland (on or near the ground).
Part IV.—By the Waterside.
Part V.—By Mountain Marsh and Moor.
Part VI.—By sea and shore.
Part VII.—Birds not breeding in Britain.

The coloured figures are true, but we consider the general effect would have been better had the backgrounds been lighter in most of them. The reproductions of nests *in situ*, with eggs or young are both numerous and good. To indicate the method adopted we reprint the account of the Marsh Tit, all others being similarly dealt with.

MARSH TIT (*Parus palratris*).

"The Marsh-tit uses much the same nesting sites as the Blue and "Coal-tits, but does not affect low situations as much as the last species, "nor, unlike the Blue-tit does it care much about artificial sites, and is seldom to be tempted by nesting-boxes, preferring natural holes in trees, "especially in pollard willows, for it is often found by the water-side, "though less exclusively than its name would imply. It often pecks out "its own hole in a rotten trees. The nest itself is of the usual Tit type, "made of moss, grass, wool, fur and feathers ; willow catkins are also used "according to Mr. Kearton."

"The eggs are very like those of the Blue-and-Coal-tits, and equally "numerous, if not more so, ranging from six to ten. The nesting-time is "the same as that given for the last species."

"The Marsh-tit nest all over most of the British Isles, but is local "in Scotland and Ireland, and all across the temperate parts of the Old "World ; its black cap and bill will distinguish it from all the other small "Tits except the Coal-tit, which is well distinguished from it by the white "spots on the back of the neck."

"A form of Marsh-tit called thə Willow-tit (*Parus salicarius*) has "been found breeding here ; it is said to be distinguishable by its duller "black head, more rounded tail, and whitish edging to the wing feathers, "while the eggs are larger and more clearly spotted. This has a wide "range across Europe and Asia."

It should prove a welcome addition to the bookshelves of all interested in our native avifauna.

The Water-fowl of India and Asia. By F. Finn, B.A., M.B.O.U.—Thacker, Spink and Co., Calcutta. Rs. 2-8.

We propose supplementing the preliminary notice of last issue, with a reprint of one of the smaller accounts of species, viz :—

"THE RED-CRESTED MERGANSER.—*Merganser serrator*, Blandford, "Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds Vol. iv, p. 470. Vernacular names. —None known.

"This Merganser is a smaller bird than the Goossander, but has a "longer and narrower bill, with more teeth, and less hooked at the tip. "The sexes differ structurally in just the opposite way to those of the "other species, the *male* Merganser having a long straggling double crest, "consisting of an upper and lower portion, and the *female* a shorter one. "The *male* of this species resembles in general the male Goosander in "colour and markings, with the following noteworthy differences :—The "back is more black, the breast is reddish-brown with ill-defined black "streaks ; the whole front edge of the wing is grey, and there are two "black bars across the white part ; there is a patch of white black-edged "feathers just in front of the armpit ; and the lower part of the back is "finely pencilled with black and white, this marking being continued "more coarsely on the upper flanks."

"The *female* is very like the female Goosander, but is of a dull "mottled brownish-grey instead of the clear pale bluish grey of that bird ; "the head is not so reddish, and the white of the throat is duller "and less clearly defined ; and the white patch on the wing formed by "the secondaries and their coverts is crossed by a black bar, this occupying "the same position as the shorter of the two black wing-bars of the male.

"The *young* and the *male in undress* closely resembles the female. "Young birds and females have less bright red feet than males, and there "is more black along the ridge of the bill in these ; the male has bright "red eyes. The male of this species is about twenty-two inches long, with "a wing of about nine and three quarter inches, and shank nearly two; "bill about two-and-a-half. The female is smaller."

"This species of Marganser, like the Goosander, inhabits the north "temperate zone of both worlds, breeding in the north and wintering to "the southwards. It is a ground breeder, laying eight or more dirty buff "eggs. It has only occurred in India twice so far as is known, but "probably often gets confused with the Goosander. There are, Dr. "Blandford informs us, in the British Museum the wings of one obtained "at Karachi by Major Yerbury and in the Indian Museum there was a "good skin of a female or young male specimen obtained in the Calcutta "bazaar on December 17th, 1889."

All the accounts of the various species are very full and concise, and we repeat our favourable notice in last issue, and strongly recommend this interesting booklet to all interested in Waterfowl, whether in their native haunts or in captivity.

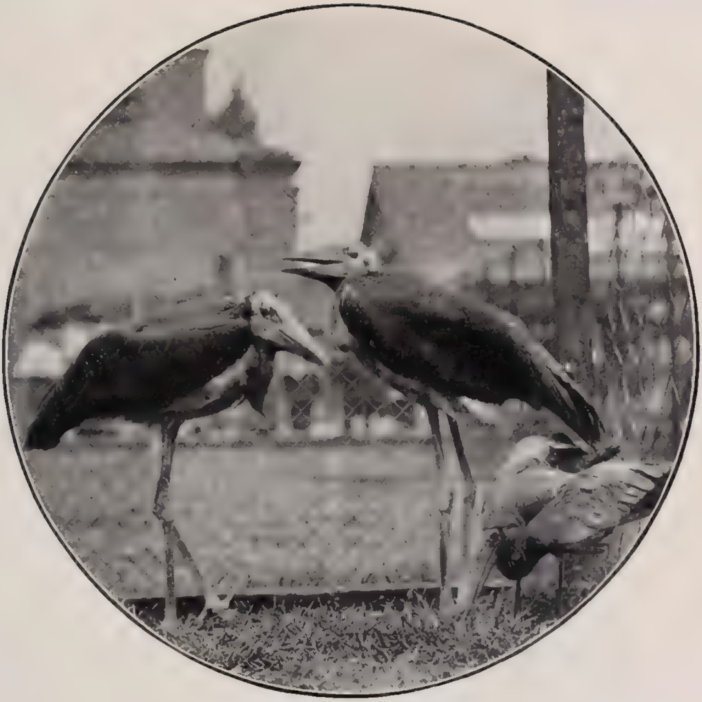
Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in Cage and Aviary. —Cassell & Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part III. The promise of the earlier issues is well sustained—the Chapter on Cages and Cage-making is completed, and a Chapter on Nests and other Appliances, is commenced. The text figures and half tone plates are excellent in every way and very practical. The frontispiece of the part is a good coloured plate, with figures of Clear Yellow Goldfinch Mule, Ticked Buff Linnet Mule and Yellow Canary Bullfinch Mule.

It is a very interesting and practical issue, and judging by the three parts already issued, the complete work promises to be very thorough and comprehensive.

Editorial.

Marabou Storks (*Leptoptilus crumeniferus*): I am indebted to our esteemed member Miss E. L. Jardine for the following facts. She has recently returned from Northern Nigeria, and brought back with her a true pair (young birds) of this species, which have been placed on deposit at the Zoo. They were brought to her, evidently fresh from the nest, by a Housa man at a little place called Wushishi on the Kudune river, N. Nigeria; being about six weeks old and covered with beautiful snow-white down; the primaries were just beginning to burst through and grew very rapidly, about two inches daily. They were fully fledged a month later, and could fly as high as the roof of the bungalow. When they started on their journey to England on April 7th, they were brought down the river in an open dug-out, tied among baggage and weathered a bad tornado without



Marabou Storks about 3 months old.
Vide page 176.

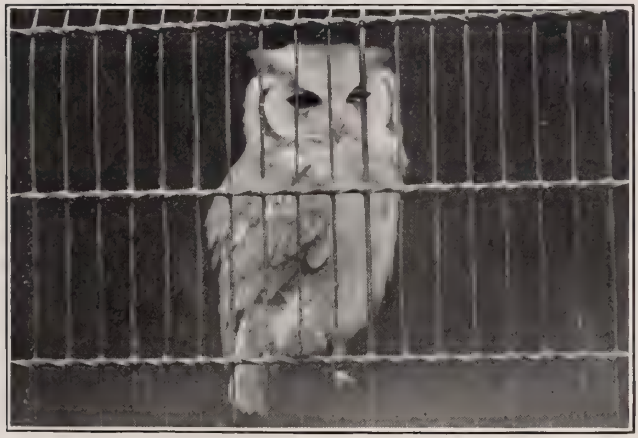


Photo by H. Willford.
The White-eared Scops Owl (*Glaucidium leucotis*).
Vide page 151.

injury. On the ocean steamer they had to bear many hardships, but were safely landed at Plymouth on May 8th, being then about three months old and fully grown. The following notes I give in Miss Jardine's own words : "They are rather grotesque looking birds, but I think very interesting, they are very confiding and polite, and bow and wag their heads like two quaint old gentlemen, who had dined not wisely but too well—I have dubbed them the two Obadiahs." [See photo].

Miss Jardine also safely landed a small stork of some other species, but as no description is given and I have not seen it, the species cannot be given.

Miss Jardine also brought a Sunbird as far as Grand Canary, but cold and dull weather supervening, quickly killed it.

A Cape Canary x **Canary Hybrid:** Our esteemed member Capt. J. Sherard Reeve has had one young chick hatched and there appears a good prospect of its being reared.

Stella Lories: Our esteemed member Mr. E. J. Brooks informs me that one pair of his birds have young in the nest, with every indication of their being fully reared. This species has not previously bred in this country. A later communication states that two more pairs are nesting.

Jacarini Finches (*Volatina jacarini*) : Our esteemed member Mr. R. Suggitt has a pair of this species, which have nested and duly hatched out two young chicks on May 28th—they are doing well, but Mr. Suggitt is doubtful of complete success as his supply of small live food has failed just at an important moment—it is certainly to be hoped that they are fully reared, as this species has not previously been bred in this country.

Painted Finches (*Emblema picta*) : Fully half-a-dozen of our members have pairs of this beautiful species engaged in the important duties of incubation, and it is quite a race for the medal. Some extremely interesting data should result, if the respective owners of the nesting pairs will give detailed accounts of their birds' doings. Mr. Willford has no less than six pairs of this species, five of which are either busily engaged in incubation or feeding young.

Cuba Finches *(Phonipara canora)*. Mr. Willford has three young chicks of this species ready to leave the nest ; he also has Mealy Rosella *(P. pallidiceps)* and Ring-neck Parrakeets with young. Also an English Robin engaged in incubating two Silky Cowbird's eggs.

Indian Notes: I have abstracted the following notes from a private letter (April 25th, 1910) received from our esteemed member Captain Perreau—I have not arranged them in sequence but just taken them in the order in which they appear as avicultural gossip—they are not *verbatim* quotations :

Since his return to India last year, the number of his aviaries have been materially increased—he kindly promises me plans and a description a little later—the climate of Bakloh, Punjub, is so similar to that of our own, that any notes from this source are of practical interest to aviculturists in this country.

LORIIDÆ : Of these, Captain Perreau has two species, the Red and Violet, and the Ornate—they occupy the same enclosure and strange to say "have swopped partners," and there appears every prospect of hybrids being reared—though these do not find much favour with our member.

PLATYCERCI : These are represented by Pennant, Rosella, Mealy Rosella, and Stanley : Captain Perreau's birds are confirming Mr. T. N. Willson's account in an early Vol. of *Bird Notes*, that Pennants' Parrakeets will not tolerate other *platycerci* in the same enclosure during the breeding season. I may say that I have had similar testimony from other correspondents.

Other species of Parrakeets I must deal with as they occur and not in groups ; possibly they will be even more interesting in this way :—

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS : The morals of these birds do not count for much. There are eggs from Black-cheeked x Madagascar Lovebirds, and incongruous cross mating as follows : Black-cheeked Lovebirds x Red-rump Parrakeets, and White-eared Conure x Black-cheeked Lovebirds. The properly mated pairs have given very uneven results, out of four pairs taken out last year, only one has bred and they have reared a dozen fine youngsters, and are at present engaged in incubating another clutch.

1910 RESULTS : Young have already left the nest of the following species : Zebra, Bib, and Ribbon Finches ; Black-cheeked Lovebirds, Cockateels, and Green and Yellow Budgerigars. The following have young in nest : Cordon Bleus, Saffron and Ruficauda Finches, and Long-tail Grassfinches.

The following are incubating clutches of eggs: Black-cheeked Lovebirds, Passerine Parrakeets, Zebra and Orange-cheek Waxbills, Green Avadavats, Saffron Finches, Cutthroats, Long-tail Grassfinches, Budgerigars, and Cockateels.

The following are nesting but had not got as far as eggs at time of writing: Stanley, Pileated, and Red-rump Parrakeets.

WHITE-EYES (*Zosterops palpebrosa*): A pair of this interesting species has built a typical nest with short bits of teazed string- the position they have chosen as a site for their nest is an exposed one—to look at, it might be the nest of a wild bird. I had better quote this interesting account in full:

"On April 11th, I saw them pulling at an end of string and watched. "In the shelter, quite low, about 2½ ft. from the ground, I found a sort of "film below a bare horizontal fork of medlar. I gave assistance in teazing "out ends of string into their finest fibres and supplied fine roots (not "used). On the 12th, the thing was a distinct nest and looked practically "finished by the evening of the 13th apparently nothing was done on the "14th, but at 7 a.m. on the 15th the hen was sitting off and on, but there "were no eggs--on the 18th they were busily engaged in incubating a "clutch of three eggs. Both sexes assisted in the construction of the nest, "but I cannot definitely state whether both assist in the duties of incubation."

They were still sitting close on the 27th when the letter was mailed. It will be of great interest if these are reared, and our esteemed member will record his observations.

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING PARRAKEETS: Capt. Perreau has three pairs of these engaging and beautiful little birds, and all three are showing indications of going to nest—the hens are carrying nesting material—small stuff seems to be tucked under the feathers of the lower throat, and the larger stuff under the feathers of the rump and upper tail-coverts.

Correspondence.

Sir.—Please state the best foods, etc., for White-crested Laughing Jay Thrush, and White-throated ditto. Is the following diet all right?—Soft food (nuts, which they love), banana and live food, mealworms, dried flies, and ants' eggs. In all the vol's. of *Bird Notes* there is no mention of feeding these birds. (Mrs.) E. WARREN VERNON.

[Possibly the diet has not been given for these two species alone, but I am of the opinion that the diet for the group has been given in "B.N." (but I am writing from memory). However, all the items Mrs. Warren Vernon names can be given the diet may be briefly summed up as follows:

soft food, such ripe fruit as they will take, a little minced raw meat, and live food *ad lib.* nothing will come amiss in this respect, grasshoppers, cockroaches, and almost any creeping thing, which with their larvæ and pupæ will all help to fill the capacious maw of the Jay Thrushes, and a small mouse or fledgeling will be quite agreeable when available. Ed.]

HOMING INSTINCT.

Sir.—I wonder if you will think the following of sufficient interest for publication :—

A fortnight ago I turned into my aviary about 50 Grey and Orange Cheek Waxbills—the aviary then having no other occupants.

Within 10 minutes all but three or four were out, and most of them sitting on the top of the aviary ; for some time they flitted about, but eventually all went.

I have repeatedly had these varieties there, and have never before had one escape, but these came through the wires with perfect ease.

I followed parties of them and traced them to various gardens (the whole of the neighbourhood is built over), and counted 17 on a wall fully a quarter of a mile away. Others were seen at some distance in various directions.

During the evening they began to return in parties of three and four or so, until about 20 arrived, but they did not seem to able to gain an entrance.

At last I cut a hole in the top of the aviary, they found it and soon settled down.

By nightfall, *all but six had returned*, in fact every Grey Waxbill which went came back, those missing being Orange Cheeks alone, and, strange to say, not a bird has been out of the aviary since ; this in spite of the fact that I have not closed the hole I made for their return.

These birds were fresh arrivals, and had only spent about 10 days in my bird-room, they therefore had no knowledge of the aviary.

Also, they were not in one party during the day, but in small groups. I wonder if others have had similar experiences.

I have often had Waxbills escape singly from my room and always have easily re-captured them, but this has been by means of another bird. T. R. HADLEY.

Month's Arrivals.

Short-tail Parrot (*Pachynus brachyurus*): Our esteemea member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker informs me that Mr. W. Cross is offering a pair of this extremely rare species. This is an unique opportunity of procuring a pair, with the prospect of breeding them in the near future. Previous to the arrival of this pair, Mr. Astley's specimen which was described in a recent issue of *Bird Notes*—was unique. W.T.P.

Mr. Jamrach, the well-known dealer, has quite a consignment of South American and Indian Parrots, including: Mexican Double-fronted and Blue-fronted Amazons, Banded and Burmese Rosy Parrakeets, also White-winged Hangnest (unique), Australian White Goshawk (very uncommon), Japanese Teal (*Querquedula formosa*), and an Europœan Crane (*Grus cinera*). W.T.P.

De Von, Ltd., are offering the following among many other species: Necklace, All-green, Olive, Scarlet, Tricolour, Superb, and Violet Tanagers; Toucans and Toucanettes; Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls; Peruvian Green Jays; Flamingos; Hooded Siskins; Painted Finches, etc. W.T.P.

W. Hamlyn is offering among many others:—Banana Quits; Rufous-throated and Pietrie's Tanagers; Adelaide, Blue-bonnet, African Marabou, Canary-winged and Tovi Parrakeets; Blue-throated Warbler; Cuban Finches; Cape Canaries; Indigo Buntings; Hunting Cissa; White-throated Thrushes; Hornbills; Flamingos; Demoiselle Cranes; Macaws, etc. W.T.P.

F. C. Thorpe is offering among many others:—Black-winged Grackles; Gold fronted Green Bulbuls; Military Troupials, and a very rare Red Pigmy Parrot, etc. W.T.P.

In addition, Grassfinches, Waxbills, Senegal Finches, Mannikins in variety are offered by all the dealers.

Private Importation.—A friend of Mr. A. Sutcliffe's in the West Indies despatched a consignment of birds on May 2nd, they reached Grimsby on May 17th in good condition, the losses *en route* were about 12 per cent. principally amongst the seed eaters, some of which are difficult to identify; four have died since their arrival leaving the following: Two cocks and three hen Maroon Tanagers, one Blue Tanager, four Cowbirds (unidentified), four true pairs of Yellow-headed Marsh Birds (*Xanthocephala icterocephala*), six cocks and seven hen Violet Tanagers, seven small Tanagers probably (*Euphonia trinitatis*), one cock Red-legged Sugar Bird (*Coereba cynuea*), three cocks and two hen Guttural Finches (*Spermophila gutturalis*), two true pairs of Lavender-backed Finches (*S. castaneiventris*), five cocks and seven or eight hens Slatey-grey Finches (*S. analis*), six cocks, two hens, and one immature Jacarini Finches (*Volitinia jacarini*), five cocks and six hens Tropical Seed Finches (*Oryzoborus torridus*), very similar in colour to the Black-headed Mannikin (*Munia atricapilla*), one yellowish brown finch locally called the Canary, probably a Saffron Finch, one hen Hooded Siskin, one Pigmy Ground Dove, three Passerine Ground Doves, one immature Thick-billed Grossbeak, locally known as Twatwa, reputed to be very fine songsters;

forty yellowish brown Finches apparently of both sexes, and about a dozen other finches unidentified. We hope to receive another consignment early in July principally Tanagers and Sugar Birds with about fifty small Finches.

R.S.

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

Two Young Two-coloured Parrot Finches (Maurice Amsler). Acute inflammation of liver and congestion of the spleen, probably of infectious origin.

Gouldian Finch (Miss C. H. Longdon). Acute inflammation of liver and spleen, probably of infectious origin.

Cordon Bleus. (The Hon. M. C. Hawke). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Violet Tanager ♂ (Miss Lydia Clare). Cause of death, fatty degeneration of liver, which was also the seat of hemorrhage.

Budgerigar ♂ (Miss L. Peacock). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Grassfinch ♂ (W. Edmunds). Cause of death, pneumonia.

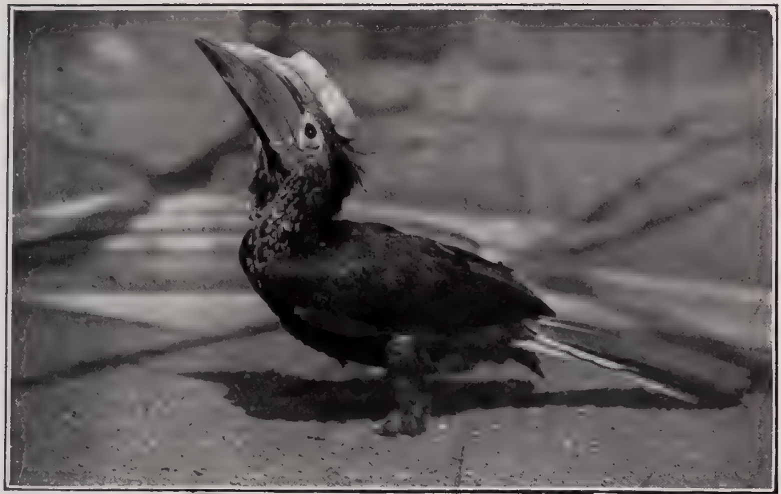
Canary ♀ (T. R. Hadley). On examination I found this bird to have an enlarged spleen, possibly due to bird fever.

Answered by post.—Mrs. G. Bourke.

I destroyed to-day (June 6th) a Goldfinch mule suffering from epilepsy that had been in its owner's possession 15 years. Last week I made a post mortem examination of an African Grey Parrot that had been in its owner's possession 35 years. Its liver, spleen, and lungs were crammed with nodules, but in which no tubercle bacilli could be detected.

It would greatly help me to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. were in sending me dead birds to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



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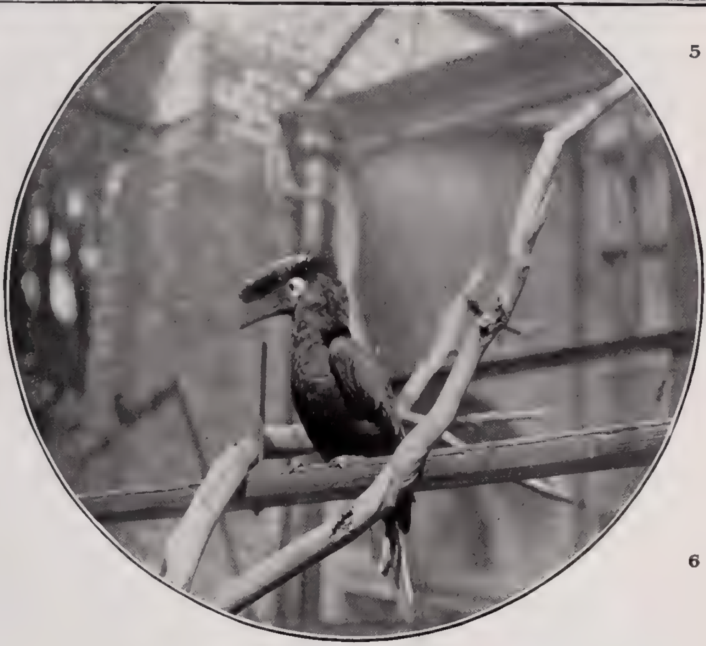

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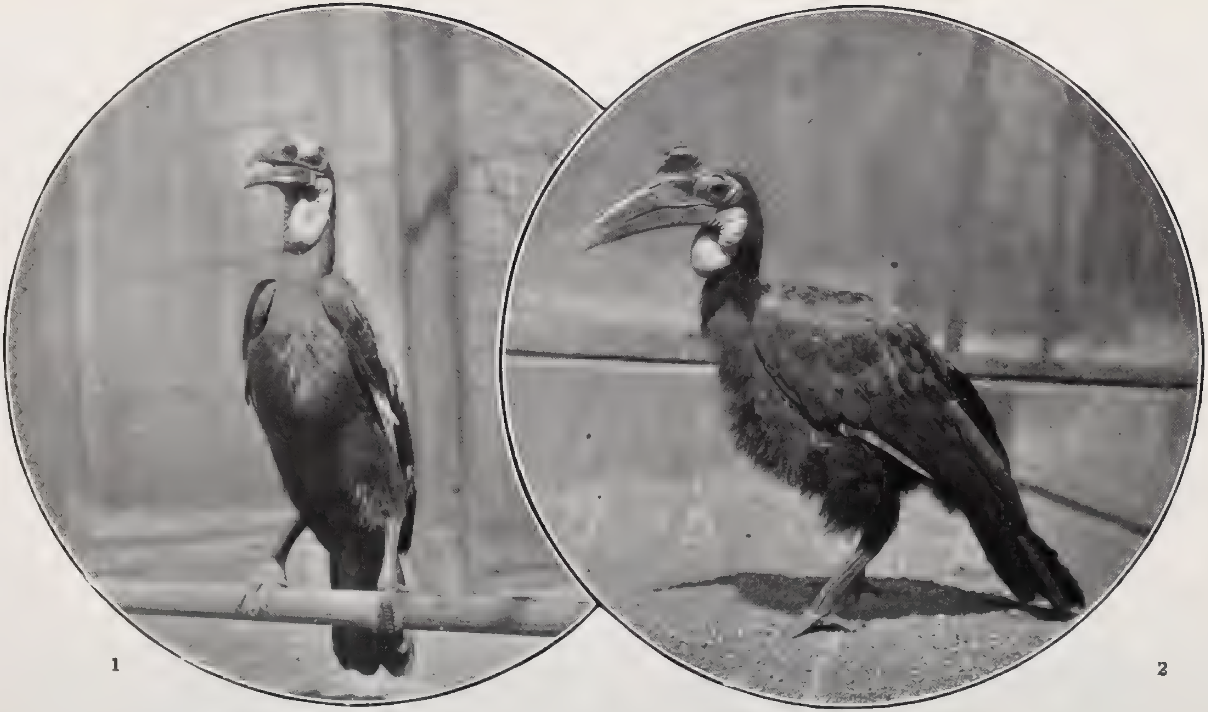
5. Elate Hornbill ♂ (*Ceratogymna elata*).
6. Black Hornbill ♂ (*C. atrata*).



1. West African Ground Hornbill ♀ (*Bucorvus* [*Bucorax*] *abyssinicus*)
2. South African Ground Hornbill ♂ (*B. cafer*).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from p. 159.*)

BUCEROTIDAE.

The Hornbills are represented in the Gambia by five or six species, three of which are common, namely the large Ground-Hornbill *(Bucorvus)* and two (perhaps three) of the smaller arboreal genus *Lophoceros*, while I know another bird larger than the latter, of whose identity I am doubtful, but suppose it to be *Bycanistes fistulator.*

Bucorvus abyssinicus. GROUND HORNBILL.

Range. Abyssinia; West Africa. *(H.L).*

A bird of distinctly grotesque appearance and heavy build, rather larger than a goose, though when alive on the ground or on the wing, it looks much bigger, in fact, absolutely enormous, so that when I come upon a pair stalking sedately, as is their wont, over the ground, I am always reminded of the Dodo,—its pictures of course I mean. Their general colour is black-brown with a white wing-patch, which, however is only visible when the wings are spread; the cheeks and neighbourhood of the eyes are naked, the bare skin being blue changing into red towards the edges of the patch; the throat, which is distended to form a pouch, is also bare of feathers and coloured like the cheeks in the male, but purple in the female; another noticeable feature is the presence on the upper eyelid of a number of long black and very stiff lashes. The beak, black with a line of horn-brown at the base of the lower mandible, is enormously developed and surmounted by a casque, which is open and abruptly truncated in front, looking exactly as if it had been cut off with a knife. The legs are black, the irides grey; length about 40 inches.

They are usually found in pairs stalking about the dry swamps, but in the early mornings one not infrequently comes on a flock of twenty or more feeding altogether in the fields and clearings, which they quarter with methodical care, as they march solemnly across in a more or less regular line. On these occasions they are much less shy and allow one to approach much nearer before they fly away, than they do later on in the day, when they are much more wary and keep well out of gunshot, walking slowly away as one tries to approach, but taking wing if pressed too closely, when they fly off for a couple of hundred yards or so to take refuge in cover or on a tree at a safe distance. Their cry is a remarkable one, which can be heard at a great distance and when once heard is not likely to be easily forgotten. It is a long monotonic boom, almost metallic in timbre, in unison with which one feels the drums of one's ears vibrate and which sounds (to me at least) something between the noise made by a bull roaring and that of a large gong beaten softly, or perhaps better, the sound of wires vibrating in the wind. It is frequently heard in the early part of the rainy season, less frequently at other times. The main food of the Ground Hornbills consists of frogs, snakes and other reptiles, as well as large insects, &c., which they find in the swamps and other places they haunt, but they also eat any dead ones or other carrion they come across, and in addition I am pretty sure that they also eat ground-nuts in their season and various bush-fruits,—at any rate they are frequently found feeding in ground-nut fields, where the nuts have been recently pulled, while one I knew in captivity used to eat any kind of food, animal or vegetable, indiscriminately, and was particularly fond of all kinds of fruit.

Native names are **MANSA-DIBA** and **MANSA-DIBONGO** (Mandingo), and **NDOBIN** (Joloff).

Bycanistes fistulator. **TRUMPETER HORNBILL.**

Range. West Africa; Senegambia to Nigeria. *(H.L.)*

A bird of arboreal habits, about 20 inches in length, and black and white in colour, which has a crested head, a small casque, and purplish red bare eye-patches.

The following notes refer to a Hornbill I have seen a good many times and which I believe to be this species. I have always come across them at about the same season and always in the same sort of places, that is, in or near the forest portions of the Protectorate, Fogni on the south, Niumi on the north bank of the river. They evidently come here for the rains, no doubt to breed, and prefer well-wooded to open country.

May 30, 1906. Bullelai, Fogni. Saw one large Hornbill which I think must be *Bycanistes.*

March 29, 1907. Faraba. Saw three of the bigger black and white Hornbills, a size larger than the common brown one (?=*Bycanistes*).

May 29, 1907. Albreda, Niumi. Saw two of these birds; pure white below, black above and on wings. Also heard a somewhat trumpet-like note (new to me) which I think was uttered by them.

June 15, 1907. Albreda. Saw another.

May 2, 1909. Brekama. Saw three.

May 5, 1909. Sifor. Saw one of these black and white Hornbills, but this one looked very little larger than the common Hornbill. Black throat, white chest and bright yellow beak very noticeable. Later on in the month and at the same place saw several more, but never when I had a gun with me. One pair appeared to be exploring the monkey-bread trees for a suitable nesting place.

Since the above was written I have got a skin of one of these Black and white Hornbills which I hope to get identified when I reach home. They are certainly not (as I thought) *Bycanistes fistulator*, but probably an-

Lophoceros erythrorhynchus. RED-BILLED HORNBILL.

Range. North-east Africa, Senegambia, South-east and South-west Africa. (*H.L.*)

These, the smallest of the Gambian Hornbills, are extremely common all over the Protectorate, where they frequent both bush-covered and cultivated country. They go about in pairs as a rule and feed chiefly, if not entirely on fruits, nuts and berries, and like so many of our other beasts and birds living almost entirely on groundnuts as long as they are fresh and still lying about in the fields. They nest in holes in trees ; the female, as is usual in this family, being walled in and fed by the male during incubation and till the young can fly. On the ground they advance by a series of awkward hops, but among the branches they are remarkably active in spite of their rather ungainly appearance and long clumsy-looking bill, though when they first alight on a tree after flight the latter seems to almost overbalance them, at any rate they nearly always lurch forward as they settle and apparently only just save themselves from a bad fall by a sudden upward jerk of the tail. Their flight is slow and undulating, a few rapid wing-beats followed by a long descending glide on motionless wings, and often hindered and laborious when there is any wind against them. Their note is a longdrawn whistle.

Their general colour is black, heavily mottled with grey and white above, and mostly dirty white below ; the wings are black spotted with white, the central tail feathers brown, the others mainly white with grey bases. The beak, which is strongly curved and without a casque, is coral-red tinged with black at the base of the lower mandible ; the throat and eyelids are bare and lemon-yellow in colour, legs dark brown, irides pale yellow ; length 18 inches.

I had one of these birds alive for some time and found it a most amusing pet, as it got very tame and loved being handled and played with. It unfortunately did not survive to reach home. It was brought to me from the nest when nearly fully feathered and accompanied me on my wanderings from place to place, loose about the hut during the day but shut up in a box at night and on the march. At first the boys had to cram it with chewed groundnuts, but as it grew up it soon took to eating these without any

other member of the *genus Lophoceros.* The following is a description of one shot in Kombo on the 3rd of June, 1910 :—

Whole head, neck, upper parts, sides of body and wings wholly black, glossed on the flights with dark bottle-green ; at the angle of the wing towards lower surface is a small spot (two or three feathers) of white ; the tail is black, the most external and the two central feathers with two-inch white ends. Chest, belly, vent and thighs white. The bill which has a fairly defined ridge along the culmen but no real casque, is yellow with black ends to both mandibles, the black being prolonged into two irregular lines running towards the gape ; about an inch of the central portion of the nasal groove, in front of the nostril, is edged above and below with dull red. Iris dark brown. The eyes are protected by stiff black lashes and surrounded by a dark grey patch of bare skin. Legs very dark grey. Length 20 inches, Length of bill (in a straight line from tip to gape) 3⅝ inches.

outside masticatory or other assistance, and this article of diet it always preferred to anything else, though if they were not forthcoming it would take boiled rice, soaked biscuit or "cherrie," the native porridge made from pounded millet. The Mandingo name for this bird is MARRINA, pronounced exactly like the English word "mariner."

L. nasutus. **BROWN HORNBILL.**

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Nigeria; North-east Africa. (*H.L.*)

A brown and whitish bird rather larger than the last, which is by far the commonest of our Hornbills; they are plentiful enough any where at all seasons, but at the beginning of the rains their numbers are enormously increased both up-river and round Bathurst, where they are commonly known as "Rainbirds" and where they simply swarm at this season. Their note, a tri-syllabic mewing cry generally uttered as they fly, is very monotonous, and when one hears it constantly repeated from morning to night by a daily increasing number of birds (as is the case at this season), it becomes quite maddening and most irritating, particularly to nerves in that state of general over-sensitiveness and irritability, which the rainy season is so liable to produce. From this cry they get their native names, KILAHKONG in Mandingo and KILINKKO in Joloff, either of which when pronounced with the true native inflexion gives a most accurate rendering of the call. In food, habits and flight they resemble their red-billed relative.

Their general colours are browns, dark and light, mottled with drab and white. The bill is dark brown with a pale yellowish streak at the base of the upper mandible and four or five oblique transverse lines of the same colour on the lower. Legs black, iris red-brown; Length, 20 inches.

L. semifasciatus.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Nigeria. (*H.L.*)

This species I have never to my knowledge seen. It is a larger bird (24 inches) than *nasutus* and mainly rusty black and white in colour and has a pale yellow beak getting black towards the tip.

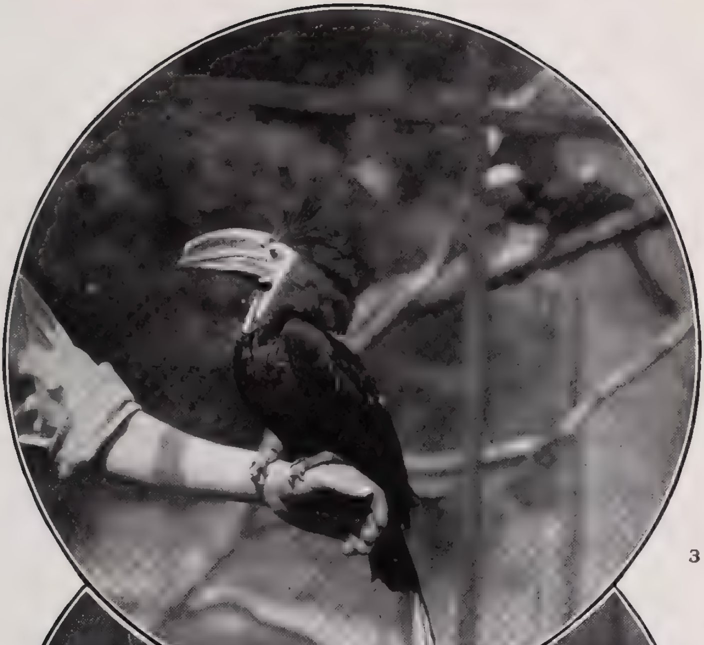
(*To be continued.*)

A Holiday in the West Indies.

By A. Sutcliffe.

(Continued from page 157).

The woods resounded with the hammering of the Woodpecker. I saw several Radiolated Woodpeckers (*Centurus radioletus*) which I could easily identify by the bright red cap. I surprised one which flew only a short distance, screaming all the time, and alighted on the trunk of another tree not more than fifty yards away, so I got a good chance of seeing him, and the plumage was marked in very much the same way as that of our Lesser Spotted



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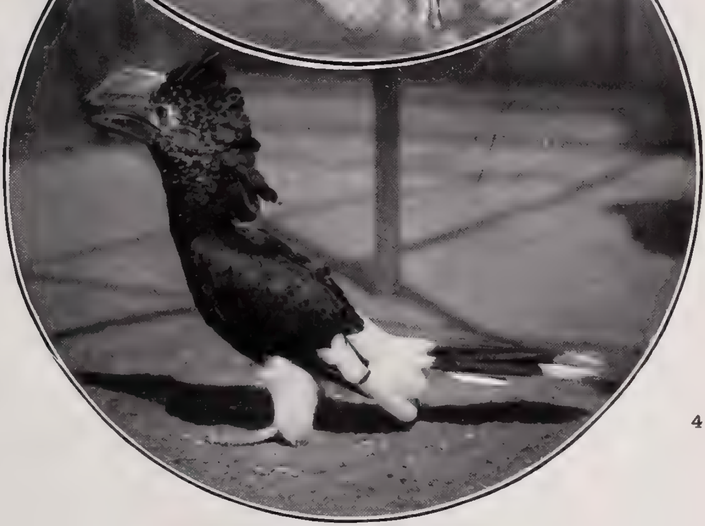

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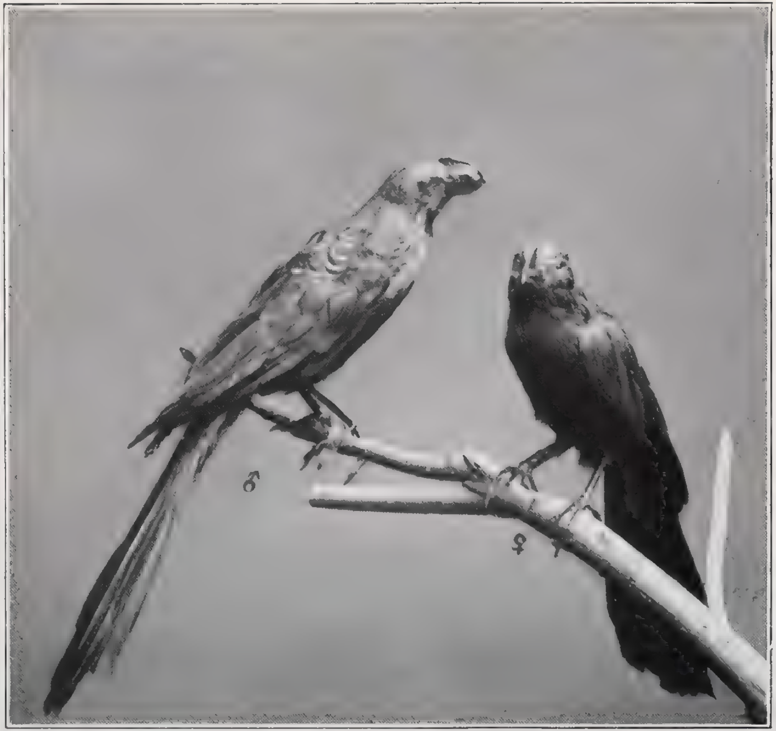
3. Black Hornbill ♀ (*Ceratogymna atrata*).
4. Sub-cylindrical Hornbill (*Byranistes subcylindricus*).



From Skins.

Savanna Blackbird or Tick-bird (*Crotophaga ani*).

Woodpecker, except that it was of a greenish ground colour, instead of black. There were scores of birds I could not identify, and I must here confess a lot of them did not interest me much, as they were not aviary birds : such as Ducks, Geese, Plover, and a great variety of Waders, also several kinds of Tyrants, and beyond getting Skins of two of them, I did not bother with them further.

THE SAVANNA BLACKBIRD OR TICK BIRD (*Crotophaga ani*) is very common and can be met with in small parties all over the Island. They are impudent and familiar and will permit of a near approach, but always keeping one eye upon you and if you act in any way which they think suspicious, off they go screeching and making a funny clacking row. They are very slim, yet fairly large birds, being 14·75 inches long, of which the tail measures 7·75 inches. The entire plumage is black, with rich purple reflections, and the feathers on the upper back, neck and head are edged with a lighter border : which in some lights look blue, and in others brown. Why nature has provided this bird with such a length of tail, I cannot think, as when it flies, it hangs like a wet rag, and when on the ground the tail seems to catch the least bit of wind, and flops over its back, and on one occasion, I saw it completely upset one. In fact the bird seems to be overgrown fore and aft, as the beak is out of all proportion to the size of the bird, it having an arched culmen, giving them a very curious appearance, Gosse says he has found in the stomach of these birds caterpillars, moths, grasshoppers, beetles and other insects, also berries of the Suape-withe. They should therefore do well on the ordinary soft food.

I should have sent some of these birds home but did not take any soft food out with me. I sent to New York for some mealworms, and ants' eggs ; the former were sent off in a hermetically sealed tin, and of course were nothing but a black mass on arrival. However I hope to get some of these birds before long, when I shall perhaps be able to write more about their habits, under close observation, as they are certainly very interesting, and unique. The best district to see them is Moneague, where a lot of cattle rearing goes on, they hop about amongst the cattle, and on their backs, to get the ticks, which infest all live stock in Jamaica.

THE TINKLING GRACKLE (*Quiscalus crassirostris)* is one of those stately birds, which walk with a swagger, their total length is 12½ inches, of which the tail measures 5·3. Their plumage is black and glossy, and they feed in precisely the same manner as the Savanna Blackbird, and are generally to be found in the same locality.

I had great difficulty in identifying the Finches, or the so called Grass Quits, as they all resemble one another in size and shape, but I think the prettiest is the Yellow-faced Grass Quit (*Sper. olivacia)* or better known in Jamaica as the Mountain Grass Quit. It is found on waste land, and along the road sides, also in Gardens. I have seen it on the verandah of the Constant Spring Hotel, where a pair had a nest, built on a ledge at the back of a water spout. Their length is 4·1 inches of which the tail measures 2 inches. In the male the upper part is olive, a stripe over the eye, chin and throat rich yellow, narrowly edged with black, breast black, belly pale olive, under tail coverts almost white, upper tail coverts olive, shoulder patch yellow. In the female the black is absent and the yellow markings much paler. They build a domed nest of dry grass lined with finer grasses or fibre, mixed with hair.

THE BLACK-FACED GRASS QUIT resembles the former very much, except that they take the place of the Sparrow ; they are to be found in every yard and garden, and will come on to the verandah for crumbs.

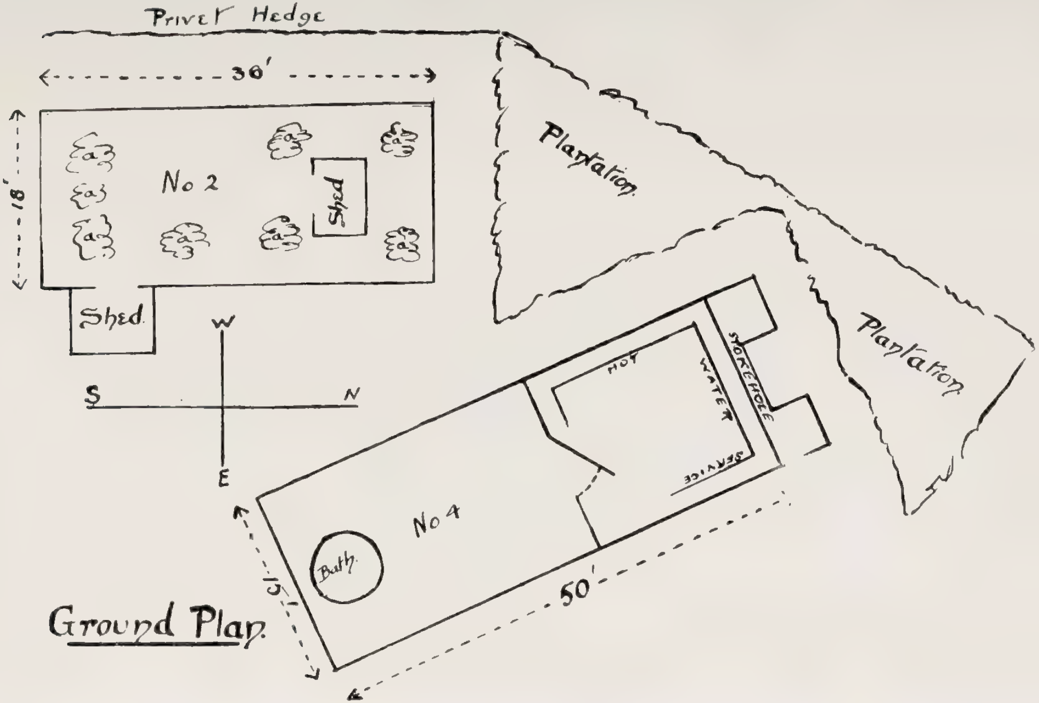
Length 4 inches, tail about 1½ inches, the male is a dark olive brown, fore face and chin blackish, legs and feet blackish brown, and I understand from information gained, they often build in colonies.

THE GOLDEN CROWNED CANARY (*Cathagra brasiliensis*) is a very beautiful bird, but it is difficult to understand that this bird is a finch, as it is a slender and graceful bird, and has a beak more adapted to soft food, than seeds.

Male : head bright yellow, striped with greyish blue ; upper plumage yellow ; wings and tail greyish brown, edged with yellow ; under parts yellow. Female : head and back grey : throat, breast and belly whitish ; wings and tail greyish brown. I obtained several of this species, but they all died in a few hours, and I am certain that the nigger boys squeeze them before handing them over.

It will be perhaps interesting to describe how the nigger boys catch the small birds ; they take a tin half full of water, tap

Lady Pennant's Aviaries and Birds.


Privet Hedge
30′
18′
No 2
a
Shed
Shed.
W
S
N
E
Plantation
Plantation
HOT
WATER
SERVICE
STOKEHOLE
No 4
Bath.
15′
50′
Ground Plan.

Ground Plan of Lady Pennant's Aviaries.

the bark of the Bread-fruit tree, and run the sap into the water, then make a fire in the woods and boil the sap till it becomes a glutinous substance, which they smear it upon sticks, in the same manner as we use bird-lime, and to remove the sticky substance from the feathers, they rub with a little of the ash from the fire, but they generally prefer to pull out the wings and tail, in fact I once had one brought to me half plucked.

One of the curios of the Island is the Land Crab. (*Gecarcinus ruricola*) they have a peculiar face like marking on the back, and live in holes along the road sides like Rabbit holes. They are very difficult to approach, as they have a very keen sight, or sense of hearing. When the spawning season commences, they all flock to the sea shore to deposit their eggs, and it is at this season of the year that huge quantities are caught for human food. There is one great peculiarity about these crabs, that is, that when on the march to the shore, they never go round an obstacle, but always over it, and in a straight line : not even buildings deter them, and they are wonderful climbers. After depositing their eggs in the sand, they leave them to hatch in the tropical sun, and return to the upper country, to shed their shells.

[To be continued.]

The Aviaries and Birds at Soham House, Newmarket.

By Lady Edith Douglas Pennant.

In the spring of 1909, I made two aviaries here, the first being a wire netting enclosure 6ft. 6in. high and 36ft. long by 18ft. wide, with privet, laurel, cypress, etc., planted in groups. The other is a substantial brick building with wire run and concrete floor, built more or less after the pattern of the Western Aviary at the Zoo, with hot water pipes run round the inner part, and a few bay trees etc. planted in tubs and pots (see plan).

In the outside aviary I had a pair of Virginian Cardinals, 1 pair Green Cardinals, 1 pair Pekin Robins, 1 pair Bullfinches, and a pair of Zebra Finches, besides an Albino Blackbird, a Pine Grosbeak, and a Shâma. None of these nested except the Zebras who reared two families (12 in all) in a very short space of time in one nest, all apparently very happy together. As they looked like becoming too numerous they were all sent off to the Zoo.

The Pine Grosbeak was very nervous and eventually broke his neck. The other birds were all very friendly and there was no quarrelling. The Albino Blackbird is not very interesting as he is always hiding in the shrubs, probably owing to his weak eyes. I have this year, added to the above, a pair of Dominican Cardinals, 1 Black-throated Cardinal, a pair of Rosy Pastors, 1 Brazilian Hangnest, 3 Blue Tanagers, 4 Mannikins, and a Pine Grosbeak, this one settled down at once and is quite tame.

In the heated aviary I started with pairs each of Superb, Tricolour, Crimson-crowned, and Magpie Tanagers, 1 Shâma, 1 Dyal bird, 2 Brazilian Hangnests, 2 Blue-cheeked Barbets, 1 pair Blue Robins, 1 Hoopoe, 1 Orange-headed Ground Thrush, 1 Blue Rock Thrush, 1 Red-legged Cuban Thrush, 1 Mocking bird, 1 Sulphury Flycatcher, 1 Red-whiskered Bulbul, 1 pair Black and White Starlings, and odd males of Archbishop and Scarlet Tanagers. All did well except the Blue Robins and the Hoopoe; the Blue Robins met with accidental deaths, and the Hoopoe was never doing well, probably owing to the wet and cold summer, he suffered from rheumatism, and did not live through the winter. The Barbets both did very well until the winter, when I lost both rather suddenly from pneumonia. I also lost 1 Superb, 1 Tricolour and the Archbishop Tanager from the same cause. The hot water was on during all the cold weather, and the minimum temperature was about 40 deg. F. in the inner part; the birds were let out into the outer part every day. I am not at all sure that they would not do better if only shut into the inner part at night without any heat, I think they would be less liable to pneumonia which was the cause of practically all my losses, and which I suppose was contracted by cold draughts combined with hot air.* I give the birds as much variety in the way of food as possible and feed up well with mealworms during the cold months. All my birds have become very tame and take no notice of strangers.

Besides these aviaries I have a Crane run about 50 yards by 20 yards in which are now 1 pair Demoiselles, 1 Crowned Crane, and a pair of Flamingoes. The Demoiselles were young birds, but went through the winter most satisfactorily, running loose in the garden and shut into a shed at night. Since March they have been in their present quarters, and have an open shed which they seldom, if ever, use, except the Crowned Crane who occasionally sleeps there. I have only had the Flamingoes a short time and am rather doubtful about them, as this dry soil does not seem to suit their feet, though they spend a good deal of their time in the water which is a concrete bath 12ft. by 9ft. and 1ft. 6in. deep in the centre part. I have had the Crowned Crane since March, he is a grand bird and is thriving. I have also 2 Australian Piping Crows, one the White-backed and the other the Black-backed species. They are very good friends and live loose in the garden, with clipped wings. They are most attractive and very friendly, though inclined to be mischievous and ably defend themselves against dogs and cats; they do practically no damage to the garden.

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*I gather that in the flight of this aviary, both the long sides and front are open wire netting; in such case I should advise covering in the most exposed long side, either with bass matting or roofing felt during the winter months, removing same each spring. Personally I have found the percentage of deaths very high in all aviaries, used as winter quarters, where the wind can blow through from side to side, or end to end.—Ed.

This spring I have been more successful with the small birds. The Green Cardinals have nested and hatched out two chicks, both however died. I also got two Sparrows (one Cape and one Yellow) which paired and have hatched and reared one hybrid, it is not unlike a common sparrow. I got the Cape Sparrow cock and the Yellow Sparrow hen in the beginning of May, I really wanted a pair of Yellow Sparrows, but they sent, perhaps accidently, the above two birds. I put them out at once into the wild aviary where they immediately started building a nest in a German Canary cage hung in the shed. The nest was composed of grass, hay, moss, sticks, bits of shrubs, and flowers, and lined inside with moss; the four eggs are right at the far end, and could only be seen by tipping up the nest; only one hatched. The cock bird did practically all the feeding, he would take five or six mealworms in his mouth at a time to the nest; he never liked to go to the nest if he thought he was being watched or while one was in the aviary. I should not like to say how many mealworms he had in a day, gentles he did not care much for. The young Sparrow is as big as its mother, and of a light brown colour with light eyebrow streaks and a very light coloured breast, the back is marked like the mother's. It can fly well now and does not seem to mind this changeable weather. The Green Cardinals are again nesting.

The photographs show the two aviaries—No. 1, Crested and Demoiselle Cranes ; No. 2, Inside the wild aviary : No. 3, The crows ; and No. 4, Some birds in the heated aviary ; they are the Black and White Starlings, a Magpie, the Blue Rock Thrush, and a White-throated Jay Thrush, the latter a new acquisition.*

My Aviaries and Their Inmates.

By Miss M. Drummond.

It is only after several requests from our kind Editor that I am sending this plan of my aviary (Perthshire), and account of my birds, which are very ordinary.

The aviary is made to fit into a corner of a garden, so as to benefit by north and east walls and also to have the use of an existing brick house for the shelter ; it has answered well and been very successful for all my birds, in spite of their northern home. They have kept fit and in good feather, and seldom indeed have any of them been ailing, and though owing partly to want of room and partly to high prices I have never had any rare birds, nevertheless, what I have, have been a source of great pleasure and interest to me. I may say that I have had in it for the past ten years : White and Grey Java Sparrows, which breed readily ; Grey Cardinals, Cockateels, Yellow Weavers, Cactus Conures, and Mannikins of sorts, and they have always thriven, some of them being quite aged.

The accompanying plan will indicate the general arrangement of the aviaries and also indicate the arrangements made for the comfort of their inmates during the severe winters we often experience in Perthshire. The following key will make the ground plan quite clear :—

A.A.A.A. : A substantial Brick shelter. well lighted with side sashes and skylights ; fitted with hot water service.
B.B.B.B. : Wood, glass and corrugated iron shelters.
C.C.C.C. : Open wire netting flights, planted and turfed provided with glazed shutters for closing up—during inclement weather.
D. : Cage 4ft. x 3ft. x 6ft. high.
E. : Cage extension with glass roof, and portable side sashes for winter use, arranged to catch the early morning sun.
Dotted lines represent wire netting partitions.

Aviary No. 1 : Here I have pairs of Red-sided Eclectus Parrots and Red-rump Parrakeets with Yellow Weavers in the

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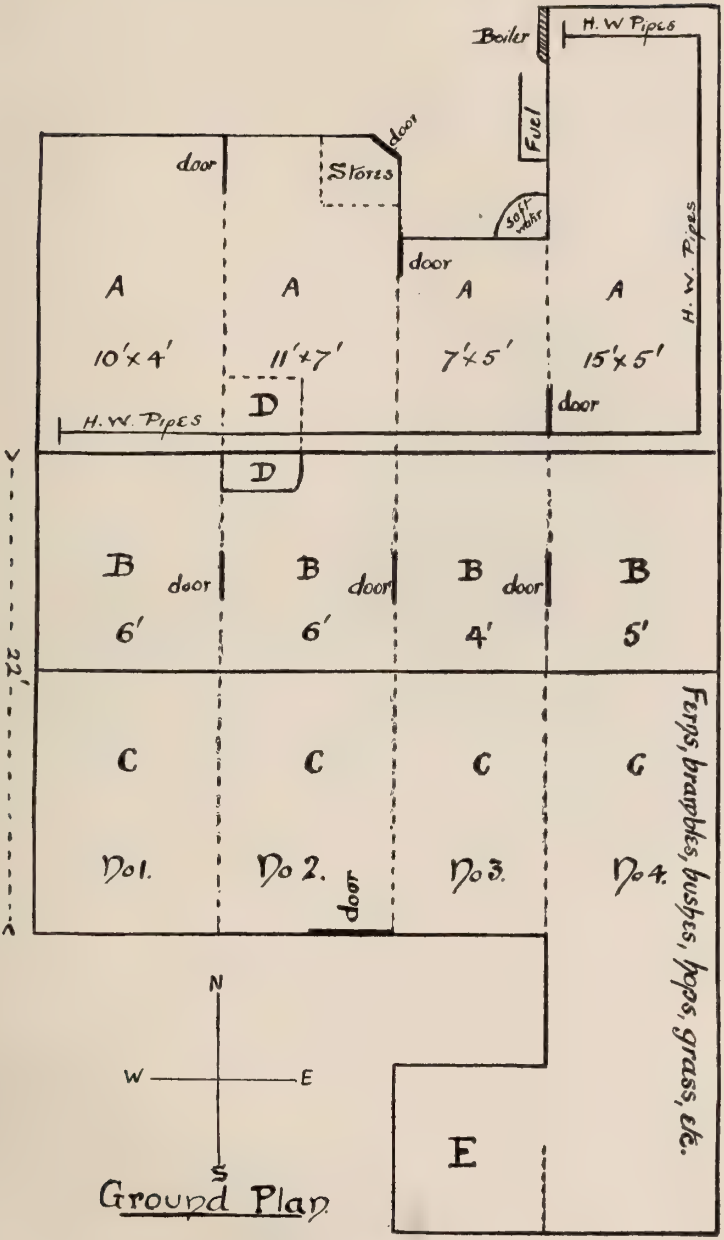
* See plate facing page 188.


Boiler
H. W Pipes
Fuel
door
door
Stores
soft water
door
A
A
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A
10'×4'
11'×7'
7'×5'
15'×5'
H. W. Pipes
D
door
H. W. Pipes
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B
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door
6'
6'
4'
5'
22'
C
C
C
C
No 1.
No 2.
No 3.
No 4.
door
Ferns, brambles, bushes, hops, grass, etc.
N
W
E
S
E
Ground Plan

Ground Plan of Miss M. Drummond's Aviary.

cage marked E. The Red-sided are at present showing signs of breeding.

AVIARY No. 2: This contains: Crimson-wing Parrakeet (♂), Cactus Conure (♀), and a pair of Cockateels, the latter reared me twenty young last year in five nests of four each—notwithstanding that twice the hen all but succumbed to egg-binding in the early spring. At the present time (May 31st) she is incubating four eggs. Last season I also had in this enclosure three pairs of Yellow Budgerigars which reared fourteen young during the season. but I have now parted with them all. In this enclosure I also have Grey Cardinals whose nests never come to anything, and White and Grey Java Sparrows which breed very readily.

AVIARIES Nos. 3 and 4: The wire netting division between these two aviaries is of large enough mesh to enable the small birds to pass freely from one to the other, the larger species having to be content with the space of No. 3. Here are congregated together: Mesias, Pekins, Mannikins of sorts, Canaries (Yorkshire's), Green Singing Finches, Zebra Finches, Red- and Black-headed Gouldian Finches, and other small species. Last year I had so many Zebra Finches I had to get rid of them all—they proved more prolific than our native Sparrows!

GOULDIAN FINCHES: I have done fairly well with this beautiful species—disappointing as it is to so many—rearing about twenty young in the course of two years of the two varieties, and at the present time in the shelter of No. 3 aviary, the Red-heads are busily engaged in feeding a brood of young birds. The small birds appreciated the wilderness under the wall of No. 4 aviary.

The shelters have concrete bases and are well sanded on top of the concrete. I keep a small amount of heat on in the shelters for nearly 6 months of the year, which keeps them dry and warm without being hot, and I am sure it keeps the birds more comfortable in our cold and damp climate—in fact it appears to me a necessity to their well being; but, even in the coldest weather, unless a snowstorm is raging I let them out for some hours daily, but they evidently appreciate their cosy warm shelters and do not stay out long on bad days.

In aviary No. 4, I have trays of sand under the principal perching places of the birds about five feet from the ground, the aviary being rather narrow, I am able thus to keep the grass and shrubs clean and fresh. I have made similar arrangements inside all the shelters to facilitate cleaning arrangements. I may conclude by repeating that my aviaries and birds have supplied me with unlimited interest and pleasure, and the aviaries have also been very successful judging from the condition and length of life of their inmates.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

By Capt. G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(continued from page 133).

LAUGHING-THRUSHES AND BABBLERS.

This group is not well represented in the Station itself, but there are more not far above and a Babbler or two not far below the Station. One cannot recommend them as cage-birds, but in the aviary they are most interesting and I wonder they are not more popular at home. Of course they want room and they are most certainly not safe company for birds smaller than themselves. Mr. Teschemaker found his White crested do a considerable amount of damage to occupants of an adjoining aviary.

The Himalayan White-crested Laughing-Thrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*). According to the book we are beyond the north-west boundary of this bird. About four or five years ago I found them quite common in Kajiar in mid-June, the young having just left the nest, and most interesting to watch they were. I have not met it in a wild state since. In March 1908 I picked up four at Bombay to take home with me They found a temporary home in the Zoo for that summer. I took one out in the Autumn to do some mild exhibiting. It's appearance reflected the greatest credit on the Zoo treatment and I had a fair amount of success with it. I believe it is still doing well at Welsh shows. It made a charming pet and was a source of much amusement to visitors owing to his curious postures and cries. I could generally set him off laughing by attempting an imitation (a poor one at that but it sufficed). His laugh did not really resemble a laugh, but it was a nice cheery noise and lots of it.

I had written some more on the habits of this bird, when I came on the following bit in Oates' book about several genera which we might lump together as Jay-Thrushes, a very descriptive name commonly applied to this species.

> "All are without exception gregarious, and are found in troops of
> "from six to twenty or more individuals. They feed principally on the
> "ground, their strong feet and bills enabling then to turn over leaves, and
> "they are also found on trees, on which they take refuge when disturbed.

"On being alarmed, or frequently without any apparent cause, they "break out into a chorus of notes resembling laughter or loud chatter. "They are also in the habit of going through amusing performances on "the ground, erecting their crests, drooping their wings, and expanding "their tails, dancing and capering about all the time. They are all found "in forests or amongst trrees and bushes, and though cautious and some- "times very shy, yet on some occasions they seem careless of observation, "and they are difficult to get rid of when once their curiosity has been ex- "cited. They eat almost every sort of insect and the smaller reptiles, "and they no doubt partake also of fruit."

They certainly are fond of fruit and berries. They nest in low thick bushes.

Rough description. Crest, head, neck, and breast pure white; a broad streak below the eye and continued beyond black; rest of plumage chestnut. Length 11 inches, tail 2.2.

THE RUFOUS-CHINNED LAUGHING THRUSH* (*Ianthocincla rufigularis*). —This bird, too, I have only met with higher up in the forest zone. I have never kept it, but was much taken with it in a wild state, and as it should be an easy bird to keep, it may yet find a place in one of my aviaries. It is a non-jay-like bird, smaller and slimmer than the last, and although it is lacking in having such a striking contrast of colours, it is distinctly handsome. Roughly it gives one the idea of a bird clad in beautiful olive brown, with rather a small white dress shirt and a waistcoat of ashy brown spotted with black. In reality it has a good deal more colour. Length nine inches.

Most of the birds I saw were young, wanting the rufous chin and ear-coverts, and even the old birds seen were not rich coloured on these parts. They kept very much to low thick bush, but were not hard to observe if one kept still.

The Red-headed Laughing-Thrush (*Trachalopterum erythrocephalum*).—Another bird from the forest zone and a very handsome and desirable bird it is. The evasive nature of the beast prevented much observation, but I saw enough to hanker after him, in spite of the fact that I first made his acquaintance when he was in disreputable company. A pair of Jays (*G. lanceolatus*) were trying to snaffle the young from a Tickell's Ouzel's nest, and the parents were resisting vigorously. The Redheads were hardly taking an active part in the proceedings, but it was curious that they managed to get much closer to the nest than any of the other robbers; there were several others there apparently on the chance of getting a bit. The main battle was with the Jays, though the Redheads were by no means encouraged, to put it mildly. Finally the Jays were beaten off with my help and the mean hangers-on softly and silently vanished away. I happen to know that these Tickells preserved their young from bird marauders, because I took the young myself about a week later ; it was about the most carefully hidden nest I have ever seen. I have felt mean about it ever since when I've thought of it especially as the youngsters died young To serve the ends of justice (and to round off the yarn) I should have at once found and taken the young of the Redheads, and left the gallant Tickells alone. Forbye I wanted the Redheads the more.

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* A specimen of this species was presented to the Zoo by our esteemed member Mr. E. W. Harper, ten or more years ago—it is still living and a very beautiful bird—it is located in the Western Aviary.—ED.

The year before one of our men brought me in a young one, as usual, at it's last gasp ; it's two companions had succumbed the previous day. It only lived about ten minutes so I count my first acquaintance from the disgraceful incident related above. Our little men generally bring in things too late and I have had to make it a rule to refuse either young birds or eggs. A man once brought me in a nice setting of pheasant eggs (probably Kalij) and I had gone some way in my arrangements for a broody hen before the man informed me that they were hard-set and had been taken ten days before ; he had tried one for breakfast on taking them.

These birds seem to frequent highest trees as much as low bushes. A brief description is very difficult. Head chestnut ; upper parts olive brown ; rump ashy ; under parts fulvous. The feathers on the neck and mantle have crescentic black marks near the ends, those on the throat and breast have similar marks and whitish tips, giving a very handsome effect which is heightened by these parts having a golden sheen on them. The wing is highly coloured, containing golden-red, yellow, slaty blue, and chestnut. Length 11 inches, tail 4.8.

[*To be continued.*]

Editorial.

Nesting Notes: Mr. Willford has the following species busily engaged in the duties of incubation in his natural aviaries : Silver-eared Mesias, Tri-colour and Common Parrot Finches, Gouldian Finches, Ruficaudas, and many others building.

PAINTED FINCHES (*Emblema picta*) : Mr. Willford has two young of this species on the wing and is I believe the fortunate aviculturist to first breed this beautiful species in this country.

CUBAN FINCHES *(Phonipara canora)* : Mr. Willford is doing well with this species, his pair having successfully nested twice this season already, the first brood of three, being fine lusty youngsters, strong on the wing and quite independent of their parents, and three more are in the nest being assiduously fed by their proud and active parents.

DUSKY FINCHES : Mr. Willford has a pair of this species, which have not previously been bred in this country—closely incubating a clutch of eggs.

HYBRID SPARROW : Lady Pennant informs me that a young hybrid Cape x Yellow Sparrow has been reared in her aviaries, and is now quite independent of its parents. I do not know of this hybrid having been previously reared, if any member knows of a previous instance will he please send details, otherwise Lady Pennant will be entitled to the club's medal as being the first to rear this cross.

BLACK AND YELLOW CREEPER (*Certhiola flaveola*) : Our esteemed member, Mr. A. Sutcliffe, has a pair of this lovely species engaged in the duties of incubation, with eggs about due to hatch (June 28th). Another member, Mr. R. Suggitt, is in the same happy position, and I trust both our members will have complete success and the young be fully reared.

Mr. Sutcliffe also has Black-headed Sibias, Black-headed and Hooded Siskins. and White-crowned Pigeons all busily incubating clutches of eggs, and we trust broods will be successfully reared. In Mr. Suggitt's aviaries the following are nesting : Grey-winged Ouzels, Jacarini Finches –the first brood were not reared, cold and wet supervening, the young died when six days old—they built another nest in a Gooseberry bush, but the Blackcap Warblers dispossessed them. They have now a nest on the ground among the grass, very similar to a lark's, but smaller, and are busily engaged in incubating two eggs. Violet Tanagers, Meadow Pipits, and cross mated Phillipine x Red-whiskered Bulbuls, Colombian Siskins, Doves, etc., are either building or incubating.

GREY-WINGED OUZELS (*Merula boulboul*) : In Mr. Suggitt's aviary a pair of this species are busily feeding four chicks which are doing well, there appears every indication that all four will be successfully reared—the quantity of earth worms being consumed is simply prodiguous.

HYBRID DOVES : Mr. W. H. Payne has kindly sent me a cross-mated pair of Rufus-backed Pigeon and White Java Dove, with two of their progeny, one only a squeaker, the latter only survived the journey one day, but the other and the parent birds are doing well in the aviary of Mr. Suggitt, who with Mr. Sutcliffe are kindly housing my birds while new aviaries are being erected. From the description sent me and the body of the Squab I gather that they about equally favour both parents, but a detailed description will appear in a near issue.

STELLA'S LORY : Mr. Brook, in answer to my enquiries informs me that the young chick is doing well and the feathers are just beginning to shoot—the beak appears to be black—the chick is being reared by the male parent, the hen unfortunately dying with a lump of sand in the bowel, which she was unable to pass. A second pair of this species have two newly hatched chicks and are feeding well.

HYBRID CARDINALS : Our esteemed member M. Arnstein has had a hybrid Red-crested x Green Cardinal fully reared in his aviary—the egg was left with the Cardinals for ten days, then transferred to a hen Siskin, who successfully hatched it out and reared it up to the twelfth day, when M. Arnstein completed the task by hand-feeding on De Von Nightingales' Food soaked in luke warm water—a description and further details will be given in next issue. This cross has not previously been reared.

Our esteemed member B. Hamilton Scott, has also been successful and two hybrid Red-crested x Pope Cardinal chicks will soon be ready to leave the nest—this cross has been reared on more than one occasion previously.

STARLING CROSSES, ETC. : Our esteemed member P. Gosse has a Rosy Pastor (♂) mated with a Malabar Mynah (? ♀) which have built, but so far no eggs have been laid. Mr. Gosse has also had a clutch 12 Californian Quail eggs hatched out under a Bantam hen—the chicks are doing well.

Foreign Birds : Owing to change of residence, I have found it impossible to include an instalment of "Foreign Birds" in current issue ; it will be resumed in August issue.

Correction : The generic name under the figure of White-eared Scops Owl (in June issue) should be *Scops* and not *Glaucidium* as printed.

A Deserved Honour : I am sure most of our members will be pleased to note the well deserved recognition of Mr. H. W.

Mathias's services and that the members of the Perpetual Flowering Carnation Society have given him this practical token that they duly appreciate his administrative and business qualifications.

> "A very interesting presentation was made by Mr. J. S. Bruton, "chairman of the executive committtee, to Mr. Hayward Mathias, hon. "sec., on behalf of the members. The presentation was a very pretty silver egg boiler, and a purse of twenty guineas, as a token of the members' "appreciation of Mr. Mathias's services since the inception of the society "in February, 1906. Mr. Mathias is a very loveable gentleman of quiet "demeanour, thoroughly business-like, always obliging, helpful, courteous "and under whose direction the work of the society has prospered."—From the "Journal of Horticulture," June 16th, 1910.

Nesting of Hammerkops (*Scopius umbretta*): Just on going to press we learn that a pair of this species have nested in the Great Aviary at the Zoo, and at the present time (July 9th) have two chicks about a month old. This is the first occasion on which this species have reared young in this country.

White-necked Crane: Owing to a misunderstanding, the plate so named in last issue, opposite p. 163, is incorrect—the birds figured being Manchurian Cranes.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Bird Life through the Camera.

By H. WILLFORD.

The few photographs accompanying these lines are some of my first attempts at birds in a wild state, and to anyone who has the time to spare, a few hours spent in the woods or fields hidden away from view by a tent or other means cannot fail to be full of interest.

THE NIGHTINGALE (*Daulias luscina* Linn.): The first subject here reproduced is our most renowned songster the Nightingale, and it was only by chance whilst walking through a glade at the edge of a wood that I almost trod on the nest, the old bird scuttling quickly away along the ground for some distance. The cup shaped nest formed of dead oak leaves lined with hair and fine grass, was at the bottom of a small tree, not more than six inches from the ground, and when found contained five newly hatched young, about which the old birds seemed very concerned when I stooped over the nest to see the position for my photograph, the cock doing his best to draw me away with his oft repeated note of warning.

On the following day I brought up my hiding tent and fixed it up near the nest, having of course well covered it with branches to make it inconspicuous. Within ten minutes of my hiding, the old birds came back and flitted around among the nut boughs for a few minutes before one alighted on the edge of the nest, a fat green grub in its beak, and all the while spreading its tail and wings and uttering a call to its young ; on the old birds' arrival with food five little necks shot up as one, and each time two only seemed to be fed, the old bird removing any excrement which she swallowed, but whether she disgorged it afterwards or not I was unable to see.

About every ten minutes one or the other of the old birds came with food which the young always seemed ready for, after which they retired to the bottom of the nest till the next course was brought.

It was so dark in this glade that with a telephoto lens I had to give no less than six seconds exposure, and the risk of movement was very great, so much so, that out of the first dozen plates exposed only one was a complete success.

Two out of the five young I hand-reared, and I hope to reproduce prints of them later.

GREATER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia cìnera*, Bech.) : This again was a rather difficult subject, although the nest, which was among a clump of nettles at the outside of a hedge and built of dried grass and bents and lined with horse hair, was in a much better light, and by means of bending a few leaves here and there the sun was let through and enabled me to get a snapshot of the old bird just after feeding the young.

The food was brought in much the same manner already described in the notes on the Nightingale, only the old Whitethroats crept through from the back of the nest. The food consisted chiefly of green caterpillars and a small white moth.

YELLOW BUNTING (*Emberiza citrinélla*, Linn.) : Our next photograph was much easier to obtain. One reason for this was that right opposite the nest was already a large clump of bushes among which the tent was placed and a telephoto lens used at a distance of about two yards, which gives a much larger picture than in the two former cases.

The old birds too were not half so shy, remaining for some time after the shutter had been released. The nest contained only two young, which I believe is rather unusual, and was built of grass, roots, and moss, in a low bush.

Whilst waiting for the old birds to come I had a peculiar experience, as suddenly under my feet the ground began to quiver, and, for a moment it felt very uncanny, something was burrowing underneath the ground and must have heard a slight movement just on reaching the top for it suddenly turned down again.

I think this must have been a mole although I have never seen one at work before.

So far I have found the Warblers much the most difficult to photograph, as they are so quick in their movements when feeding young, that unless a good light is obtainable, under exposure of the plates is sure to result if one does not want to show movement of the birds.

WILLOW WREN (*Phythoscopus trochilus*, Linn.) : A few days later I came across a Willow Wren's nest which was built in a bush covered with ivy, being domed and constructed of bents, leaves, and moss, snugly lined with feathers ; it contained five young.

The old bird kept close about whilst I fixed up my hiding place, and no sooner was I covered up than Mrs. Wren was on the nest brooding her newly hatched family ; the cock made frequent visits with food, generally consisting of some kind of fly or green grub, which he passed on to his wife and then flew away.

The light was not very good but I think the print gives a very good idea of our little friend and his home.

(*To be continued.*)

The Rearing of Blue Tits—for Beginners.

BY MRS. E. WARREN VERNON.

I feel I have not done much towards the helping of our Editor this year. Suppose we blame the comet, it has had everything that has happened so far put upon it, and my laziness will only be another straw.

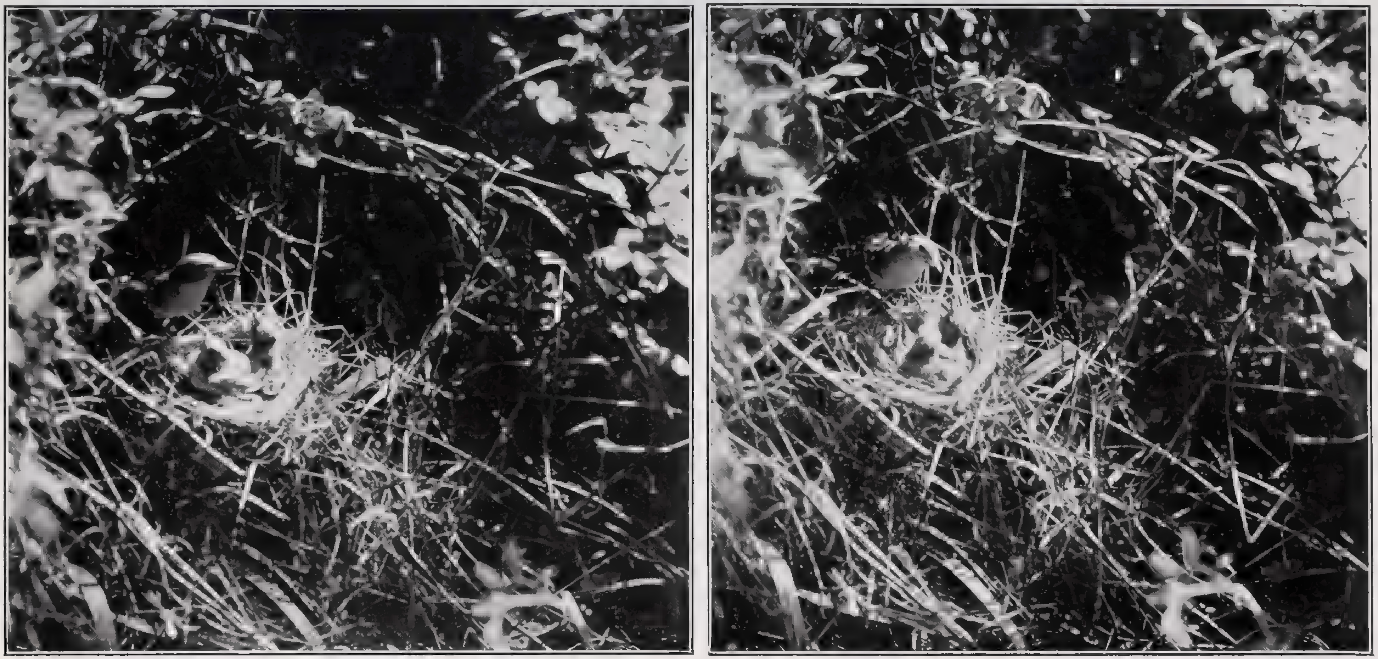
I sat out of doors in a field one whole afternoon watching for a nest of Long-tailed Tits, but tho' I tried all ways, I was not successful in snaring the parent birds, the young flew next day.

Then I was brought a nest, and the female parent of Blue Tits, six in number. I found them in the Conservatory when I went to feed my birds at about 9 a.m. They were very hungry and she (the mother) who will be known as " Maria " (as she deserves a name, I am sure my readers will say before they come to the end of this paper), came to the bars of the small travelling cage they were in,

Nightingale at Nest.

Photos by H. Willford.

Willow Wren at Nest.



Photos by H. Willford

Greater Whitethroat at Nest.

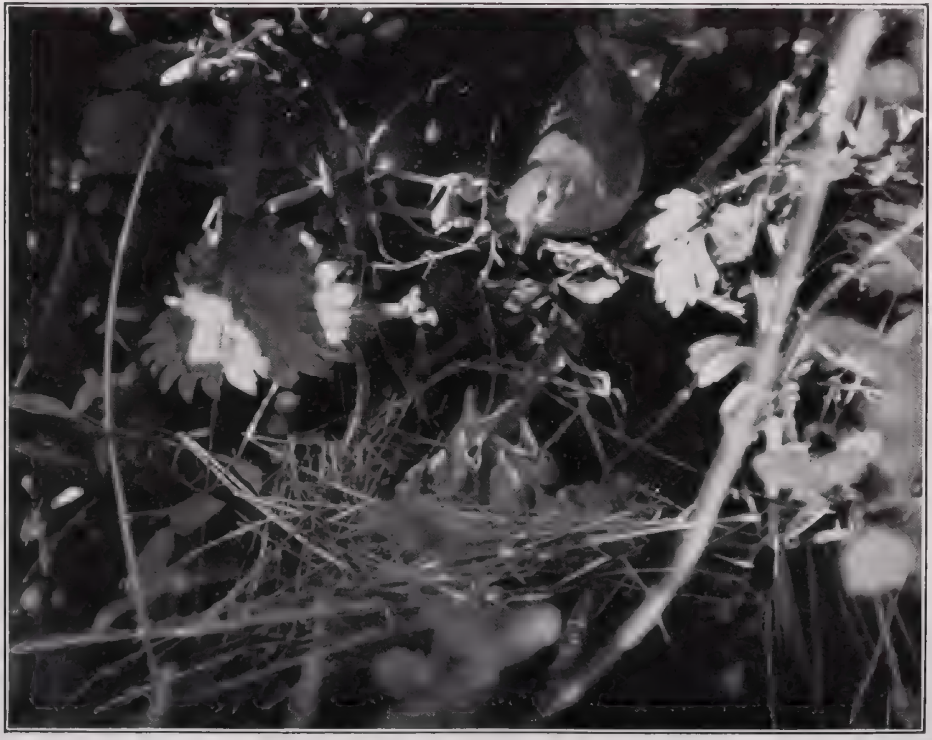
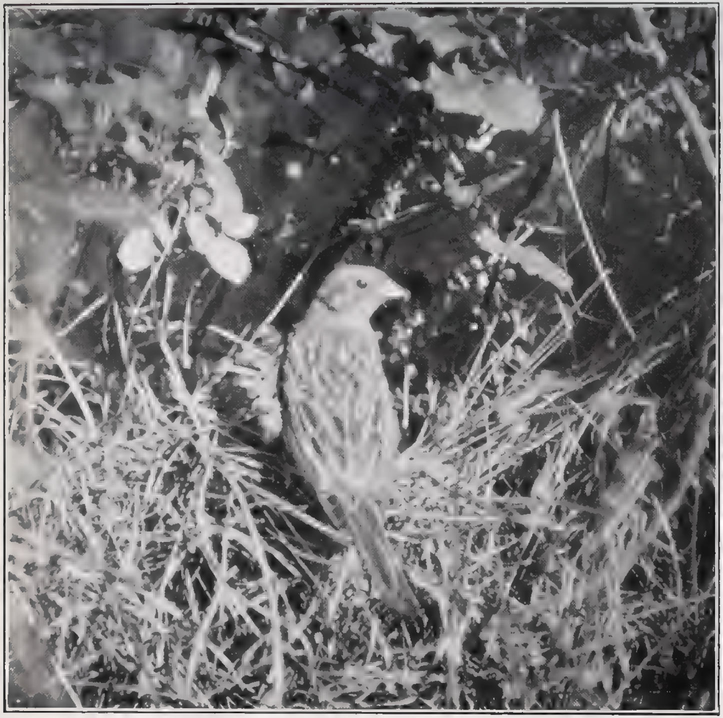
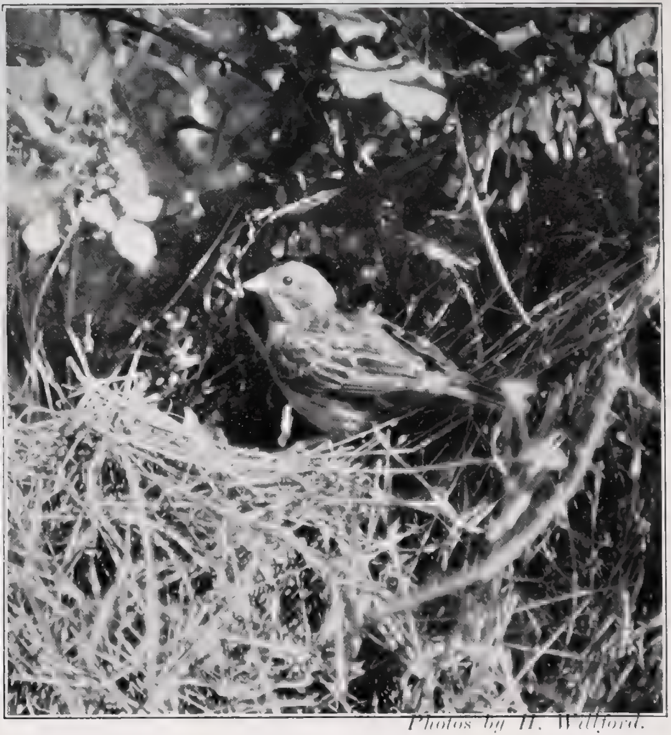


Photo by H. Willford.

Greater Whitethroat feeding young.



Yellow Bunting ♂ at Nest.



Photos by H. Willford.

Yellow Bunting ♀ at Nest.

asking for food—I gave her a mealworm. She ate it, I gave her several, after satisfying her own hunger, she began picking them to pieces, pulling off the head, pecking the back and taking out the long black thread that runs through mealworms, this part she nearly always discarded; then Maria fed her babies.

I then transferred them to a proper cage, putting the family into a box hung in the side of the cage just under a door, so that I could easily inspect them. There is a green net slide that goes in front of the bars, which prevents any wild birds injuring themselves against them, but I found Maria was far too busy attending to the wants of her family to think about getting out.

They were fed on the following foods as I could obtain them, but again let Halley's Comet bear the blame, there were very few ants eggs, and *no* green caterpillars when I first got Maria—I gave them chopped mealworms, soft food and egg mixed, this she refused at first, now they have some when no live food is at hand.

Gentles that have been well cleansed in meal, green caterpillars whenever I can get them, and now plenty of fresh ants' eggs. This went on till about three days ago, that is, ten days since I received the birds. Some of the little ones could now fly a little and come out of the nest, always going back when they got tired. Then I found another nest in the wall of my kitchen garden. I fear I broke the Sabbath Day, as first I got the babies out, six again and put them into a cage, just above the hole where their nest had been, as it was an impossible place to get at in the dark, when I could have caught the mother easily. I fastened a string to the cage door, which was held by someone inside the green-house, and then took my position in an apple tree. After almost half-an-hour father Tit came, and after cussing around, going into the hole and coming out very distressed, he finally entered the cage with a green caterpillar in his beak, and was caught. I took him out and put him into another cage and the operation was gone through again. After a long time and many failures we caught the other parent. They were then put into the cage with net front and they fed their young fairly well, but whether it was being together or not I cannot say, but they were far shyer than Maria, hiding in the corner when I went near.

Two days' after, while the cage was being cleaned, they both slipped out through a tiny hole in the bottom, and though I tried for a long time, it was impossible to re-capture the little imps. As the babies were much younger than the first lot, and wanted feeding oftener, I thought I would try an experiment, so I took them upstairs and put them into the nest with the six older birds. It was a squash, their natural mother, so I took her up and thought she would also feed, or help feed her own babies – not a bit of it – I am sure she is a but, tho' it is very surprising, the fact remains, that dear Maria fed the twelve birds right away, and has gone on doing so ever since, and they begin to come out of their nest now.

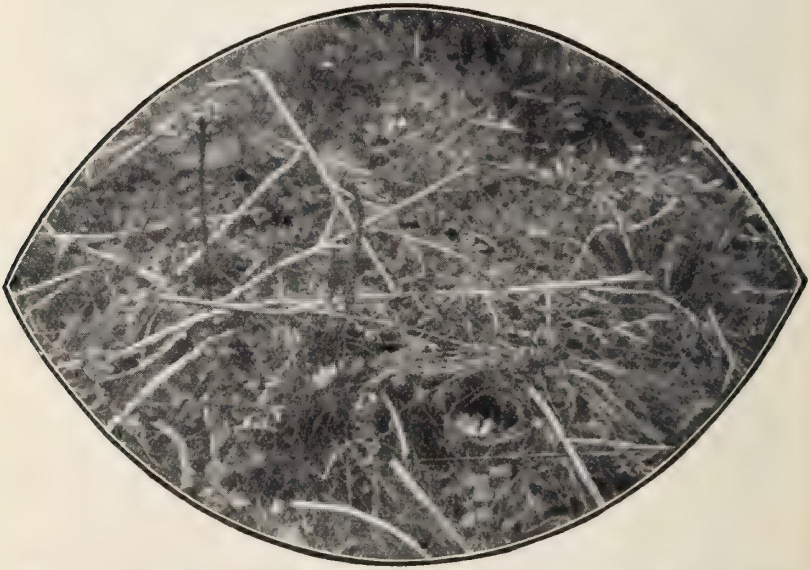
The next day in a trap cage baited with mealworms, I caught suffragette, she called to them once, ate of all the tit-bits, and left her babies alone, to poor Maria ; I therefore put her into the aviary where she seems quite happy.

Regarding feeding, the best way is to give only one sort of food at a time, a generous supply of ants' eggs, and when quite cleared up then mealworms. I only got enough green caterpillars for two feeds, but of course that is their proper food. Accustom them to soft food, as otherwise the young will not eat it when able to feed themselves. The last thing at night a good supply of food should be quickly introduced into the cage and the shutter opened so that the Maria in the case may see to feed early—5 30 a.m. she generally starts, always waking the babies with a loud chatter.

They are in a large aviary cage and some are in log nests and some sleep on perches, the smaller ones still in nest.

The young sleep a great deal, and as they grow older feed less and with longer periods between each meal. Maria seems quite happy. Twice she has been out in my room and both times gone back of her own accord to her cage and children. There is no manner of doubt a Blue Tit is one of the most adaptable as well as the most devoted of mothers.

Blackcaps will do the same, but are not so happy.



Nest and Eggs of Willow Wren. *Photo by T. Miller, F.Z.S.*

The above interesting photograph was taken by our esteemed member Mr. Tinniswood Miller, on the occasion of the annual outing of the National British Bird and Mule Club, on May 28th. It will readily be seen that the nest was by no means an easy find, and also illustrates fully how many species use their surroundings to conceal their home.

Correspondence.

NESTING OF SUGAR BIRDS, etc.

SIR.—With regard to my note in May issue of "B.N.," it will probably be of general interest if I state what became of the fledgelings when hatched out.

SUGAR BIRDS: The egg I put under the Canary was duly hatched, but she refused to rear both the Sugar Bird and her own brood.

The hen Sugar Bird also hatched out one chick, which lived for six days. I supplied the following foods: Live gentles, chopped mealworms, and the usual insectile mixture. She became so tame, that, if I entered while she was feeding her young, she would perch on my shoulder, take the worm out of my hand and would then take fully ten minutes in preparing it for her young. The male parent assisted in feeding the chick, but did not assist either incubation or nest construction.

All went well for six days, but the next morning on entering the aviary I heard such a commotion that I knew at once there was something amiss both birds were very excited. I looked in the nest and found the chick had disappeared, after a search I found it, still alive but in a very exhausted condition; I put it back into the nest and kept watch for some time —I saw the hen enter the nest and throw the fledgling out. I had some young Canaries two days old and added the Sugar Bird chick to their number, but the Canaries would not feed it and it died the following day.

The hen at once commenced building again, looking very fit and as lively as ever. I reduced the fruit mixture and left the Sultana Cake, of which my birds appear very fond. She laid an egg the following day and then went very soft, so I caught and kept her caged for two days, during which a shell-less egg was laid. I then gave her the full diet again. After this I found several eggs on the floor, she is now (June 8th) building again.

CARDINALS: In taking up again the story of my Cardinals I may say at once they have been rather disappointing. The first egg laid disappeared out of the nest, and I felt almost sure it had been stolen by someone, as no other bird in the aviary is permitted to go near—in fact I believe if a child went into the aviary it would be attacked—so I put a mock egg into the nest, this also disappeared. There was another egg laid the following morning which likewise vanished mysteriously; I was in time to save the next three eggs, and as I knew they could not be reared in the aviary I sent them into the country where unfortunately they got stolen. They built again and laid a clutch of four eggs, incubation lasted twelve days, when seeing two were fertile I placed them under a Canary, she hatched them out but would not feed. The hen Cardinal laid another clutch of four in the same nest, three of these proving fertile I placed them under three German Canaries, one is hatched and it appears to be doing well up to the present. The same hen is also rearing a Bramblefinch x Chaffinch hybrid from an egg laid in the aviary. The other two eggs did not hatch out, the chicks died in the shell. The Cardinals are again nesting and appear likely to lay yet another clutch.

I must express my astonishment at a curiosity in the colour of the young when hatched, the down on some was quite white, but the one still living is quite black, showing as much difference between them as between a white and a coloured man—I couldn't have got a much greater fright if I had seen a ghost! MARK ARNSTEIN.

Month's Arrivals.

Owing to extreme pressure and no notes having come in from members, I am only able to note here the consignment recently brought over by Mr. Frost for Sir W. Ingram, consisting of:

6 Cocks of the Rock (all ♂)
58 Blue Tanagers
23 Black-cheeked Tanagers
1 Black Tanager
20 Silky Cowbirds
24 Yellow-headed Reed Birds
24 Red-breasted Marsh Birds
2 Mambre Sparrows
3 Talpocote Doves

12 Palm Tanagers
5 Lavender-backed Finches
13 Black-headed Lined ,,
4 Lined ,,
3 Fire-red ,,
4 Jacarini ,,
3 Little Saffron ,,
2 Martinique Gallinules

I have recently been offered by Jamrach, the well-known dealer, the following interesting species:

Alpine Choughs
Adamson's Francolins
Yellowish Finches
Tien-tsin Larks
Snowy Owl
Goshawks
Black Swans
Crowned Pigeons
Cereopsis Geese

Dwarf Martineta Tinamous
Rufescent ,,
Purple Cowbirds
Cuban Amazons
Double-fronted Amazons
Concave-casqued Hornbill
Two-wattled Cassowary
White-faced Whistling Ducks
Black-backed Geese

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

Cuban Finch ♂ (Mr. Amsler). Cause of death was pneumonia.

African Waxbill (Miss Peacock). Cause of death, enteritis.

Festive Tanager ♂ (Mrs. Bourke). Cause of death impaction of stomach with food, no doubt brought about by loss of muscular tone of that organ. A dose of castor oil or a few grains of Epsom salts would, if given in time, have overcame the difficulty and in all probability have saved the life of the bird.

Golden Pheasant Chick (E. W. Chaplin). Cause of death white chalky diardhæa due to a parasite or psorosperm or coccidium. The ground should be changed by digging off the top soil and putting fresh loose earth in the run; or where the chicks have their liberty the pen shifted every day.

Ant cocoons, chopped lettuce, wheat meal, crushed dog biscuit, boiled wheat and hard boiled eggs should be given. The water should have a small quantity of sulphate of iron put into it—about five grains to the pint. Dry red millet, hemp, dari and canary seed should also be given.

Roller Canary ♂ (H. V. Johnson). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Hen Gouldian Finch (Miss L. Clare). The cause of death was egg binding or congestion of the oviduct, due to a chill. If it had been found ailing, steaming the hinder part and then placing the bird in a cage in front of the fire or even keeping it on a hot water bottle would have saved its life. Hundreds of birds have this season died of this cause.

Yellow Budgerigar ♀ (Miss K. Webb). No doubt the bird's death was caused by an injury, as I found extensive, bruising over the hinder parts of the body.

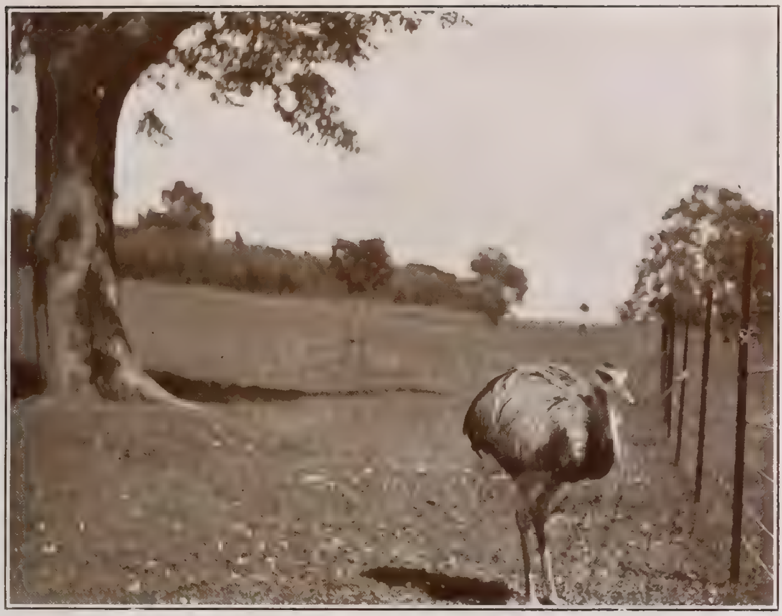
Cordon Bleu ♀ (E. W. Chaplin). Cause of death, pneumonia, which has been very prevalent.

Answered by Post.—Miss Drummond (two birds); Lady Pennant and The Hon. Mary Hawke (three birds).

Infertility of eggs, death of the embryo with the shell, inability to feed the young, crippled youngsters, and irregular and insufficiency of eggs, have been rather the rule than the exception in Canary breeding this season. Perhaps some of our readers will relate their experiences on this subject.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C V.S.

1



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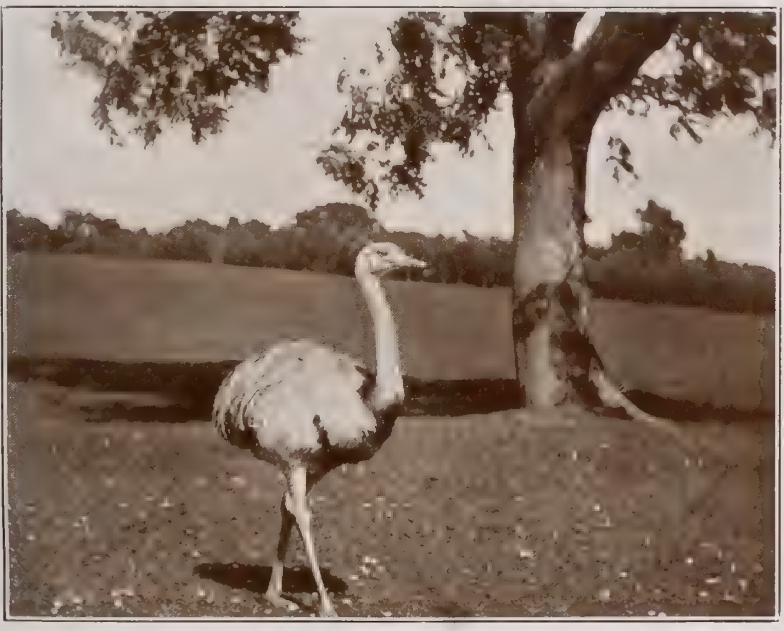

PLATE I.

Photos by Lady Dunleath

The Rheas at Ballywalter Park.

1.—Young Rhea from Argentine ♀, 2 years old.

2.—Rhea ♂, bred in England, 3 years old.

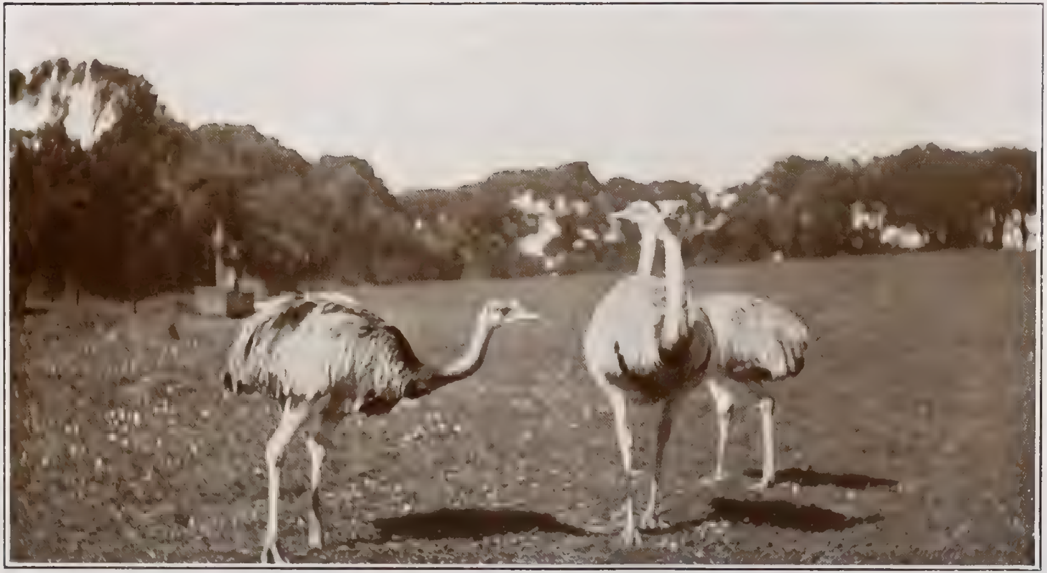

PLATE II.

Photo by Lady Dunleath.

The Rheas at Ballywalter Park.

1.—**Young Rhea** ♀ (2 years old) from Argentine.

2 and 3. Rheas (3 years old) bred in England, No. 2 has paired with No. 1 (see notes in text).

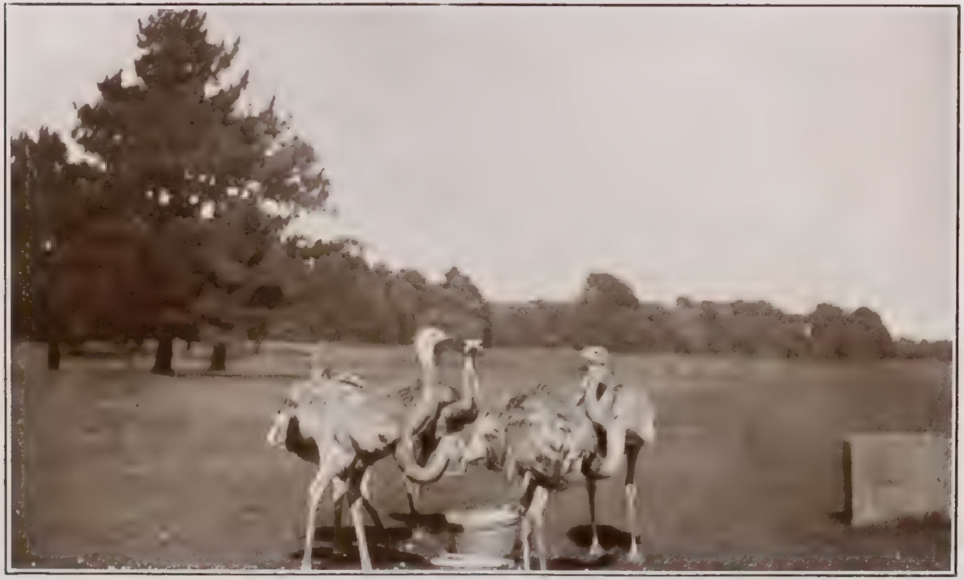

PLATE III. *Photo by Lady Dunleath.*

The Rheas at Ballywalter Park.

Five young Rheas from Argentine about one year old arrived June, 1910.

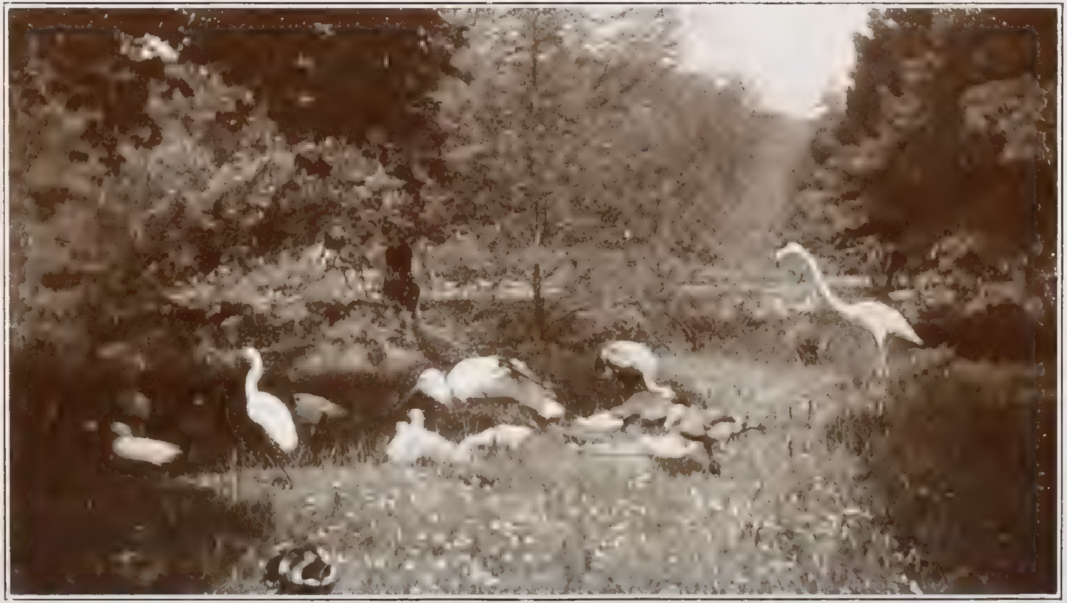

PLATE IV. *Photo by Lady Dunleath.*

Group of Lady Dunleath's Cranes, Flamingo, Egret, and other Water Fowl.

All rights reserved.] AUGUST, 1910.

BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

A Tour in South America and Aviary Notes.

By THE LADY DUNLEATH.

Perhaps some of your readers would like to hear about our tour in South America. We left Southampton on February 19th in R.M.S. Asturias and came in for very heavy gales in the Bay. We called at Madeira and I saw a few birds for sale there. Waxbills, not looking at all healthy, and native canaries for which they asked exorbitant prices knowing that we were only staying for a few hours. We stopped at Rio de Janeiro for nearly a day, landed early and went up the Corcovada, a high mountain, in a cog wheel train. I was disappointed at not seeing any Humming Birds, but some of our party saw several, neither did we see any parrots. The butterflies were most gorgeous, one in particular, sky blue and of an enormous size.

We arrived at Buenos Aires on March 12th, and after a few days were asked to pay a visit to Fray Bentos the great Liebig Factory, in the province of Uraguay. The managers were most kind and drove us all over one of the Estancias, where we saw a great number of beautiful birds, among them the Oven bird which has a curious oven like nest attached to the branches of trees. There were also a great number of Crested Cardinals, they seemed as common as our Blackbirds flying about and running on the ground.

There were also many other beautiful birds, but unfortunately they all had Spanish names and I do not remember them. At the manager's house in his lovely Tropical garden I saw my first Humming Bird, such a tiny little thing hovering over flowers like a big bee. He was green, with a ruby red head. The cook had found their nest in the garden border close to the ground, when locusts were being destroyed ; she rescued the three young ones and reared them on sugar and honey ; they had just been turned out and this was one of them. We paid several visits to

Estancias, staying a few days at each : there were not many birds to be seen, chiefly large Vulture Hawks which were very handsome, and little Burrowing Owls sitting on the fence rails or on the top of their burrows, screaming defiance if one went near them. There were also Partridges, not like ours, but more like large Quail ; at that time of year they always got up singly, but later, we were told, they kept together in large numbers, and afford very good sport. At one Estancia beyond Rosaria, there was a tame Rhea* which walked about the garden and round the house, it was given to me when I left and I brought it home safely. I was told it was a cock. When I came home I found that my own pair had grown into enormous birds. We saw great numbers of these birds in S. America, but none were anything like the size that mine have become in the last few months. We always supposed them to be a true pair as one† was continually booming and they had become very fierce. We put them into a large field and hoped they would nest. One day the new Rhea walked up the avenue near their field and the largest of the old ones broke out to make its acquaintance. We put him back several times but he managed in some way or other to get through or over the wire cattle fence about four feet high, and through a wood to the field where his new friend was enclosed. He was taken back to his own field but again broke out, so we decided to keep all three birds, for the future, in the same field. Now he has forsaken his own friend and has entirely taken up with the new one. It is this that makes me think that the new one must be a hen. The discarded one‡ lives by itself in another part of the field. My own pair are three years old, and were bred in England, the new one is two years old. I was also given five of this year's young birds, they were sent home after us and arrived safely. They are very tame and live in the deer park. I feed them every morning and when I whistle they run to meet me however far away they may be, and surround me jumping up at the food so that I find it difficult to get to the place where I feed them. They take a great interest in golf and when we play follow round the whole course. Their antics are most amusing, and they are both graceful and stately.

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* Plate I. No. 1, Plate II. Fig. 1.

† Plate I. No. 2, Plate II. Fig. 2.

‡ Plate II. Fig. 3.

We crossed the Andes on mules which was rather a terrifying experience. We stayed at Vino del Mar and went by tram to Valparaiso, where I bought two small birds. I never could find out their names. One was jet black about the size of a Cole Tit, with yellow bands underneath and yellow bars across its wings, it had a small beak shaped like a Bullfinch's. I was so sorry when it died on our way home. The other, I was told, is rare and delicate, it is about the size of a Bengalese but much more slender, small short head and thick beak, long tail : colour : black head, wings, back, tail and throat ; white underneath ; white cheeks and white stripe down centre of head.* At Buenos Aires, just before leaving, I bought several birds. They were very well kept and in splendid condition and health. Twelve young Crested Cardinals, their heads still being yellow, eight arrived home safely, they are very tame and very fond of mealworms. One large bird about the size of a Chough, but more slender, beautiful blue black plumage which looks brilliant purple in some lights. He can raise his shoulder feathers like a cape and when he flies these feathers have a grey tint. He walks like a Rook, and his head and beak are like a Rook's. He can, I am told, be taught to talk and whistles well, he feeds on canary seed, soft food and anything he can get. He was called Tordo Bolivierano. Two other birds are real jet black and are exactly like miniature Jackdaws in every way except size, in which they resemble a Blackbird. They make a noise like a Jackdaw when caught or frightened, walk like one and whistle beautifully. The cock and hen are alike, they were called Mirlos del Chaco. Three birds were like Starlings, in size, walk, and behaviour ; alas ! two were dead, one was a grey brown and very tame, flew on to my hand for mealworms, and whenever I went into the aviary it flew to meet me. The other was black with bands of fawn, black mask, and fawn head. These died within the last week, bronchitis and pneumonia brought on by bitter east winds and fog which we had soon after our arrival. I am having them stuffed. The other which is at present alive and healthy, was called a Charlatan, and is such a curious mixture of brown and black, that I find it hard to describe. It is rather smaller than a Cardinal, with brown head, black mask, speckled breast, striped shoulders, and wing feathers black edged with brown. All these birds whistle beautifully.

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* Very probably the Lined Finch (*Spermophila lineata.*) —Ed.

In Paris on our way home I got some Waxbills from my friend M. Traversée, Quaie de Louvre : as usual his birds were in perfect order, spotlessly clean, and not crowded. I also got what he called a Troupial, it is not at all like the Troupial I got in New York some years ago. This bird is the same bright yellow with a black mask, black shoulders, black wings with a broad yellow stripe parallel to flight feathers, black tail, three feathers on each side being yellow. The one I got in New York (now stuffed) has black head and neck and most of the breast, black shoulders and yellow ring round neck, tail quite black, black wings with yellow at the shoulder joints, and a white stripe down the wings. Its beak also is much larger and more slender than the new birds. there is far more yellow on the new one. I also bought a Mocking Bird which rivals the Blackbirds and Thrushes, singing between 9 and 10 at night. The Mirlos are quite tame and one of them eats out of my hands. All the birds I bought eat canary seed as well as soft food, and some of them like small bits of meat. I keep the Mirlos and the Tordo in the aviary with the Nutcrackers and Choughs, which I bought from Mr. Jamrach before Christmas. The Nutcrackers live entirely on Monkey nuts, it is very amusing to watch them crack the nuts against stones with their powerful beaks ; they are all in splendid plumage. All my other birds are well, but there are very few nests at present, only a few Zebra Finches and Canaries, the latter hatch and then sit on them till they die. This occurs every year.

Last January three Canaries built out of doors and hatched their young before I went abroad, but as usual sat close on them till they died. I do not think Canaries do well in an aviary with other birds, but I like them as they give such life and colour, and their song out of doors is so delightful. I forgot to mention that we saw hundreds of Parrots brought to the ship for sale, they were all Brazillian and most of them had short chains on their legs. One passenger had a small cage with about thirty of these wretched birds in it ; poor little things ! they had not even room to stand in ; they were terribly draggled and dirty, I got the owner to wash some and to put those that had chains on to boxes on the deck, these got much better but many died. He told me he knew nothing about birds (I quite believed him) and was bringing these home for a friend. It would be so much more

Photo by A. Sutcliffe.

Queen's Park Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Group of Egrets.

humane if people would bring far fewer birds home and keep them clean and comfortable.

Since writing the above I received the following from the Taxidermist to whom I sent the two birds that died. "The two "birds received are Rosy Pastors or Starlings. They are not in-"digenous to the New World, but are natives of Europe, Asia, and "also Britain. Some years ago they bred about Ballynahinch "(quite near to this Park). Both birds were females, one was in "abnormal plumage (this was the very tame one), they were aged "birds." I was in his shop in Belfast the other day and saw them; he has set them up very well. I am sorry to say that only three of the Crested Cardinals are now alive. They one by one drooped and pined away. I am nearly distracted with a plague of mice in my aviaries. They kill the birds, eat their eggs, destroy the food, and I believe are the cause of many deaths in my aviaries. I am now going to try a corrugated iron fence 1½ft. high and turned over outwards on the top, all round my aviary. We have poured tar down every hole that we could find, and if we can only prevent them from getting in from the outside we may conquer them.

My native companions (Australian Cranes) have laid two eggs which they incubated for seven weeks; but alas! both were infertile.

On Plate IV. the following are figured, but some may not be distinct enough for recognition:—Cranes, Common European and Australian Native Companion: Swans; Egret: Storks: Flamingo: Egyptian, Barred and White-faced Geese: Sheldrake, Wild and various other Ducks.

A Holiday in the West Indies.

BY A. SUTCLIFFE.

(Continued from page 157).

On the last day of December I left Jamaica on the R.M.S. Magdalene having asked a friend to forward any birds which could be procured. Our first port of call was Colon, Colombia; it is a damp low lying town, the buildings are chiefly wooden ones, built on piles and raised about two feet from the ground. There was nothing procurable here in the bird line, and we caught the first train on the Panama Railway for Panama. For miles along the side of the track wooden houses are erected, protected by mosquito curtains all round. I understand these are chiefly for the men working on the canal. I noticed many wicker cages containing birds outside these houses, but I could not see what kind of birds they contained. Panama is a fine old Spanish town with houses overhanging the streets. When out for a drive on the first afternoon of our stay here, we met two nigger boys carrying cages. I, of course could not allow them to pass, as I was very curious to know what they had been catching; one of the cages contained a ♂ Colombian Siskin, the other four ♂ Violet Euphonias. I did not want the Violets. I tried hard to buy the Siskin, but, the youngster would not part. I questioned these boys about the birds of the district, they could not give me much information, but they did inform me that I could buy almost any kind of bird in the market. On the following morning my companion was ill and unable to leave the Hotel. After seeing him safely packed away in charge of a doctor, I made a bee line for the market. Whether or not I hit the right day I am unable to say, but I was rather disappointed at what I found there. The market is in the centre of the town and is a large covered in square, with formidable palings all round, each vendor has a stall and seems to sell a bit of everything; many of them are Chinese. Parrots of all kinds were to be purchased in quantities, monkeys were also plentiful; both the Parrots and monkeys were tethered either to the back or sides of the stalls, the small birds were kept in wicker cages; I bought a pair of Colombian Siskins, half-a-dozen Violet Euphonias, four small Green Tanagers probably (*Euphonia minuta*) and an All Green Chloro Tanager, an immature bird. The latter is now in my aviary and is assuming adult plumage, apparently it will be green and yellow. A white man has a great difficulty in purchasing anything at a reasonable price, especially if they think you want it. We only stayed here two days, and after being taken over the canal works by one of the engineers, we sailed from Colon for Carthagena. This has been a very fine city and possesses a history, but is now practically destitute of white people, and most of its imposing buildings are tenantless. Try as I would, all I could find here were Troupials and monkeys, they appear to have a mania for monkeys in this place; our stay was a very short one, the call being to take gold aboard, which was deposited on the ship with great pomp, accompanied by armed guards in full uniform. Our next call was Savanilla, here I found more Troupials, Parrots, and monkeys; the Parrots were principally Blue-fronted Amazons, and if you asked the natives for small birds you could get no direct answer from them. "Hi massa, big fine talker massa, buy these massa," was the only answer I could get to my enquiries. I was offered a Jaguar, a very fine one, which was quite tame, having been caught as a cub and hand reared. I offered the owner a fiver for him, and the purchase was practically completed when my friend stopped negotiations. He said he very much objected to being made a meal of, and assured me if I carted it about with me for two months, there would be trouble. So after taking a snapshot of it in the cage we left it. From here we sailed for Trinidad, only staying there two days (I returned to Trinidad later). Here I purchased a pair of Egrets out of a very fine flock kept at the Queen's Park Hotel, Port of Spain (see photo) and took them aboard, as I intended forwarding the birds I had collected home by this ship. We then called at Barbadoes, but birds there were few and far between. The bird of the island is a White-eyed Starling, which roams the streets in numbers, its colour is blue-black with a forked tail. It was useless my procuring any as I had no soft food and could not purchase any, although I made exhaustive enquiries. No one keeps insectivorous birds in these Islands. Our next call was Georgetown, Demerara. I paid a visit to the Museum, which contains many interesting and instructive specimens of minerals, raw materials for manufacturing purposes, such as rubber, cottons, hemp, silk, etc., also a collection of local birds, both in cases and skins, and upon examining the visitors' book I was surprised to see the name of Mr. W. Frost. I at once commenced to make enquiries, and learned he had gone up country in search of birds. I should have been delighted to have met him there, and if he would have had me as a companion I should have accompanied him on what proved to be a very exciting trip. My companion takes very little interest in birds, and I am afraid at times wished there were no birds within one hundred miles of us ; I purchased a few Blue and Palm Tanagers, and had offered to me by a nigger a cage containing 60 Tanagers, principally Blue and Palm ; they were in wretched condition from overcrowding, and when he saw I really did not want them, offered to let me have the lot for a sovereign—let a nigger once know you want anything and you will have to pay for it. I was too eager on more than one occasion, and of course had to pay for my folly. One pair of the Blue Tanagers purchased here, nested in my aviary at the end of June ; they built in a Hartz cage making the nest of leaves, stripped off a bamboo growing in the aviary, and cotton wool. They hatched two young and reared them to about 14 days' old, when for some reason which I cannot explain deserted them. They were well developed and fine youngsters, and were fed chiefly on flies, gnats, and mealworms. The nestling down was pale chocolate brown—upper surface blue, duller and greener than that of the adult bird; under surface pale whitish-blue, entirely lacking the lustre of the adult bird, as one would expect; the beak was blackish-horn colour, and the legs and feet bluish-grey.

(*To be continued.*)

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from p. 186.*)

ALCEDINIDAE.

The Gambian Kingfishers may be arranged in two groups: (1) the Pied, (2) the Blue Kingfishers. Of the first we have two representaives, *Ceryle rudis* and *C. maxima.*

Ceryle rudis. PIED KINGFISHER.

Range. Asia Minor to Egypt; Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

A black and white bird about half as big again as the English Kingfisher, which is very common in the Gambia, where they are usually to be found in pairs or often just after the rains in little family parties of five or six. They seem equally at home in salt or fresh water, and all along our little strip of coast, up the river from its mouth to our boundary, along all its creeks and at every pool and wet swamp in the country they are to be seen, either sitting motionless on a post or stick standing up in the water or on some overhanging bough, or else hovering in the air with beak pointing vertically downwards and stationary except for their quickly quivering wings, to periodically dive with a splash right into the water beneath and emerge again almost at once, if successful, with a fish, which has been espied from above and captured by the bird's headlong plunge a plunge so swift that is almost impossible to follow it with the eye. After a failure the bird returns to its hovering, to watch and dive till success rewards its efforts, when it carries off its capture to some spot near by where it can be gulped down and disposed of. They are unlike most other Kingfishers in being quite noisy birds continually calling to one another with shrill chattering notes and besides they show none of the shyness and love of solitude of their relations. Their native names are Jilango (Mandingo) and Babukar (Joloff).

The general colour is black mottled with white; the crown (slightly crested) is black surrounded by a white streak from the beak above the eye round the nape and joins the black back patch; wings, black with white patches; under surface white with a patch of black on each side of the chest. Iris, brown; beak and legs, black; length, 11 inches. In young birds many of the feathers are edged with brownish grey.

C. maxima. GIANT KINGFISHER.

Range. Tropical Africa, Senegambia to Niger, Shoa; East, South and South-west Africa. (*H.L.*)

A much larger bird than the preceding and found in the same situations, generally singly, but in the winter occasionally three or four together. They are most powerful looking birds with tremendously strong beaks and besides being larger than the Pied Kingfishers are much more heavily built than they are and altogether less quick and active in their movements. They are rarely seen hovering but watch from some post or branch for their prey, which by no means consists entirely of fish, but includes frogs, &c., and even large insects; in the stomach of one I shot was an almost fresh centipede.

The general colour above is bluish black slightly mottled with white, the wings and tail with larger spots of white. Forehead tinged with rufous; crown, which is crested, deep black: a stripe of white followed by one of black crosses the sides of the face; the chin is white bordered at the sides with black; chest, a rich rufous; remainder of under surface, white. Iris, dark brown; bill, black; legs, dark brown. Length, 17 inches.

Alcedo quadribachys.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Gold Coast. *(H.L.)*

A bird rather smaller than our English Kingfisher, but with very similar plumage, except that the upper parts are a darker and more purple blue. I do not know this species here.

Corythornis cyanostigma. CRESTED KINGFISHER.

Range: Tropical Africa. *(H.L.)*

A lovely little bird which haunts pools and small streams rather than the main river, and which one not infrequently sees sitting a few inches above the surface of the water under the dark shadow of the overhanging foliage, or darting like a flash of blue fire through the matted tangle of the water-side vegetation. Its food probably consists mainly of large water insects, such as dragon flies and beetles, as well as small fish.

Above it is bright blue: the crown bears a distinct crest of lovely gleaming peacock blue feathers; the chin, forehead and a patch at side of neck are white, the remainder of the under surface a rich orange-buff. Iris, brown; bill and legs, red. Length, 6 inches.

Ispidina picta. TINY KINGFISHER.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Angola; Congo to Equatorial Africa; North-east Africa. *(H.L.)*

This, the smallest of our Kingfishers, haunts thick bush, not by any means necessarily close to water, and feeds almost entirely on insects, which it catches either on the wing or on the ground. In this country I think grasshoppers and locusts supply their chief food.

Description: Above, bright cobalt-blue slightly spotted with black, quills brown bordered with blue; crown black crossed by narrow dark blue bars and with the feathers elongated to form a distinct crest. Forehead, lores and eyebrows rufous, this colour being prolonged to form a band round the nape: chin white; rest of under surface deep rufous. Bill and feet black. Length 4½ inches.

Our remaining Kingfishers belong to the *genus Halycon*, five representatives of which are given in the Hand List as ranging to Gambia, and of these I know four, all comparatively large "blue" Kingfishers with red beaks. Three of these are found all along the river, both among the mangroves near the mouth and higher up where the water is fresh and the banks covered with the ordinary waterside vegetation, while they are also to be met with at nearly every pool and swamp. In habits they resemble other Kingfishers, sitting for hours motionless on a branch on the look-out for fish and diving into the water for their capture. The fourth species *(chelicutensis)* is by no means confined to the neighbourhood of water, but haunts the open bush quite away from the river as well. The Mandingo name is Keer-kairr-long, obviously derived from their cry, which is a long scolding rattle, something like "wirra-wirra-wirra" very rapidly repeated. Among the English they are commonly known as "Mangrove Kingfishers."

Halcyon senegalensis. SENEGAL KINGFISHER.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Congo; North-east Africa. *(H.L.)*

This, I think, is the commonest of the Gambian members of the *genus.* Its head and neck are grey, the rest of the upper parts, including tail, blue; throat white; chest, belly, and under tail-coverts silvery grey; under surface of tail black. Bill: upper mandible, red; lower, black; feet black; iris grey. Length 8½ inches.

H. semicaeruleus.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Angola; North-east and East Africa. *(H.L.)*

About the same size as the proceding, but differing in having rufous under parts and a wholly red bill.

H. torquatus. BLUE-COLLARED KINGFISHER.

Range. Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

A larger bird, 10 to 11 inches in length, blue above with black mantle and wing-coverts; throat white; chest and sides pale blue; belly white; beak red shaded with black towards the base; legs yellowish brown.

H. fortis.

Range. Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

This bird I do not know.

H. chelicutensis. STRIPED KINGFISHER.

Range. Tropical Africa. *(H.L.)*

This is a smaller and not quite so brightly coloured a bird as the other members of the *genus*, from all of which too it is distinguished by the dark streaks on its grey crown and on its whitish belly.

Description. Head and crown grey streaked with black; a black stripe runs through the eye and is continued round the nape to form a black collar, below which is a broader light grey band spotted with minute black spots: mantle dark grey; back, rump and upper tail-coverts brilliant cobalt blue; tail duller blue. Wings dark grey to black, with a white alar patch and with most of the flight feathers and some of the coverts washed with blue. Throat white; cheeks, ear-coverts and rest of lower surface buffy white streaked and spotted with brown: axilliaries and under wing-coverts white with a black patch in the centre of the under surface of the wing. Iris dark brown; bill, upper mandible dull dark red, lower light red-pink; legs dull pink, darker on anterior surface. Length 7 inches.

These Kingfishers are found throughout the Gambia, but are not common anywhere. They are to be met with, generally singly, near water and in quite dry places as well. They feed chiefly on insects, especially locusts and grasshoppers.

COLIIDAE.

Colius macrurus. SENEGAL COLY.

Range. North-east Africa. Sudan. Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

I have never yet seen any Colies (the "Mouse-birds" of South Africa) in this country. The distinguishing features of the Senegal Coly are the presence of blue feathers on each side of the hind-neck and the scarlet colour of the bare eye-patches.

(*To be continued.*)

My Cage Pets and how I keep them.

By Miss L. M. St. A. Wait.

I wonder if it would be of any interest to the amateur readers of "*Bird Notes*" to hear something of my small stock: the Editor says he thinks it might. I must first say that I have no aviary nor bird-room, only some dozen cages in any ordinary London drawing room, the majority of which are kept in a large bow window facing west, and as I have another large window in the room, the bow window is kept closed, so the birds get no draught whatever. I should also mention that all my cages are open wire ones, if I had box cages I could not well arrange them so that I could see the birds and that they should get all the sun and light at the same time. My soft bill birds are tame enough to take mealworms from by fingers, so I think that goes to show that the using of the all open wire ones does not keep a bird wild. I may just say *en passant* that I always have my cages made for me, as I like two doors, one at the bottom in front to put their bath in, and another high up at the side to run the birds from one cage to another. The food and water are inside. Now for the little inhabitants of these cages: They are everyone of them cocks. I have no room for breeding so I never buy hens, besides I like my birds in single cages as I think they sing better, a great point with me. My biggest bird is a Shama, I believe a very nice one, as all his toes are perfect, rather a difficult thing to obtain. Then I am very proud of my Blackcap, he is always in such perfect condition, his plumage is like silk, and he is so tame. I think my Redstart must be an old bird as he is not so fortunate in his plumage, as he is generally so rough looking, but he is just coming through his moult and is beginning to sing again nicely. I wonder if he will continue it all through August and September when so few birds sing.

Then I have a Robin that I bought out of charity, he was in a very tiny dirty cage : and the last of my softbills is a Blue-throated Warbler, but I do not think these birds are really suitable for cages, at least such as I can give them. However, he seems happy enough and sings nicely. All these birds are fed on "Cecto," Abraham's prepared food with added ants' eggs, of which they are very fond, and a few mealworms each day, the Blackcap getting fresh fruit but none of the others will touch it. I ought to say that I give the Cecto dry. I am never quite sure which is the right way, however, all my birds thrive on it. I have also a Linnet and Goldfinch which are so fond of their bath that they are generally on the edge of it almost before I have time to put it down. My little Grey-singing Finch and little Alario are great favourites, the latter sings the whole time, his cage being alone, as though he enjoyed it. One of the handsomest birds I have is a St. Helena Seed-eater, at least I believe him to be, he is certainly not the little African Green Singing Finch, but I am not sure as to his indentity. My latest purchase, is a Serin Finch which promises to turn out well.

The White-throated Spermophila is the last of the single cage birds. My small collection consists of a Blue-breasted Waxbill, a perfect little beauty, two Orange-breasted Waxbills, two Fire Finches and an Orange-cheek Waxbill. These in addition to the various sorts of millet seed and canary seed always get a little Cecto or egg flake with a little of Trower's 'Tit bits for finches' every day, which they enjoy picking over, the majority of these seeds being rather small : of course all the hard bills get green food at least once a week. All my cages are cleaned every day and I never give medicine : the only thing my birds get is a little vechey water occasionally, and on rare occasions a few drops of brandy in their water, and I hardly ever lose a bird. If only a novice in bird keeping reads what I have written above, might I suggest that on the whole the little Serins are really about the nicest birds to keep, they are cheap and so very easy to cater for : they practically sing the whole year round, a great many of them even when moulting. They are very active, and altogether sweet little things, not nearly so noisy as an ordinary Canary, and very tame. One word more, it is almost as cheap to keep two little birds as one, and I am quite sure they do better if they can answer each other, and sing more if there is a little rivalry.

The Nest of the Grey-winged Ouzel.

By DOUGLAS DEWAR, I.C.S., F.Z.S.

As our admirable editor recently succeeded in breeding in his aviary a pair of Grey-winged Ouzels (*Merula boulboul*), it has occurred to me that the members of the Foreign Bird Club might be interested in the breeding operations of the bird in a state of nature.

On several occasions this year I have listened with unalloyed pleasure to the sweet Blackbird-like song of the Grey-winged Ouzel at Naini Tal—a station in the Himalayas consisting of several hundred bungalows dotted on the well-wooded slopes that tower 1,200 feet above a large mountain lake that is itself 6,000 feet above the sea level. On the northern slope of one of the hills on the north side of the Naini Tal lake is a deep ravine through which runs a little stream. The sides of the ravine are covered with trees—mainly rhododendron, oak, and holly.

On July 1st, 1910, I went a thousand feet down this ravine to visit a nest of the splendid Spotted Forktail (*Henicurus maculatus)* which I had discovered a week previously. Having duly inspected the blind, nearly naked, newly-hatched Forktails, I went further down the stream to try and see something of a pair of Red-billed Blue Magpies (*Urocissa occipitalis*)—a species closely allied to the Yellow-billed Blue Magpie recently described by Captain Perreau in *Bird Notes.*

The Magpies were not at home that afternoon, and while waiting for them I caught sight of a bird among the foliage below me of what I at first took to be a Himalayan Whistling Thrush (*Myiophoneus temmincki)*. I followed the movements of the bird with my field glasses and saw it eventually alight on part of the gnarled and twisted trunk of a rhododendron tree. The bird had apparently caught sight of me and remained for several minutes motionless on the trunk. His whole attitude was that of a bird who had a nest to conceal. Closer inspection showed that he was a cock Grey-winged Ouzel. As I continued watching him a ray of sunlight penetrated through the thick foliage and fell upon the part of the tree where he was standing, and then it was revealed to me that he was on the edge of a cunningly placed nest.

The trunk of the rhododendron tree bifurcated about 20 feet above the ground, one limb grew nearly upright, the other almost horizontally for a few feet and then broke up into five branches or rather gave off four upwardly directed branches, each as thick as a man's wrist, and continued its once more horizontal direction greatly diminished in size.

The four upwardly-growing branches took various directions, each being considerably twisted, and one actually curling round its neighbour. At the junction of the various branches lay the nest, resting on a flat surface much as a large shallow pill-box might rest in the half-closed palm of a man whose fingers were rugged and twisted with long years of hard toil.

The upper part of the trunk was covered by a thick growth of green moss, and from it two or three ferns grew out.

As the exterior of the nest consisted entirely of green moss it blended perfectly with its surroundings. From below it could not possibly have been seen. When I caught sight of it I was standing above it at the top of the ravine, and even there should probably have missed seeing it, had not that ray of sunlight fallen on the nest and imparted a golden tint to the fawn-coloured plumage of the nestlings who almost completely filled the nest-cup.

The situation of this nest may be said to be typical, for although cases are on record of the nursery of this species being found on the ground at the root of a tree, or on ledge of a rock; I think the great majority occur in trees. But few Grey-winged Ouzels are so fortunate as to find such a site made by nature. They are often compelled to place the nest on the stump of a cut tree, and in such cases the shoots which spring up from the stump serve to hide the nest from view. The nest is typically a massive cup composed exteriorly of moss and lined with dry grass, and between the two comes a layer of mud. But no two nests are alike, sometimes even the layer of mud is omitted.

I did not take down the nest of which I am writing, so do not know whether it displayed any peculiar features. It was certainly composed very largely of moss, and what struck me particularly was the thickness of the walls.

Let us return to the cock Ouzel standing on the edge of his nest. He remained there for fully five minutes with one eye on me and then flew off. I seized the opportunity to approach nearer the nest, and took up a position on the hill side level with it at a distance of about 14 feet.

In a few minutes the hen bird appeared. Her prevailing hue is reddish-brown, while the cock is black all over save for some large patches of dark grey on the wings. In each sex the bill and legs are reddish-yellow, the bill being the more brightly coloured. Before she had reached the nest the hen caught sight of me and beat a hurried retreat.

The young Ouzels kept very still in the nest, occasionally one of them would half raise its head ; besides this, I could detect scarcely any other movement.

Presently the cock appeared with his beak full of caterpillars. He alighted on a branch a few feet from the nest where he caught sight of me, but instead of flying off as the hen did, he held his ground and fixed his eye on me, no doubt swearing inwardly but no audible sound escaped him. He remained thus for fully ten minutes, his legs and body as immobile as a statue, but he occasionally turned his head to one side to obtain a better view of me, and I could then see outlined against the sky the wriggling forms of several caterpillars hanging from his bill. I hoped he would pluck up courage to feed his youngsters before my eyes. But his heart failed him for he presently flew to another tree a little farther away, where he again contemplated me. After this he kept changing his position, never uttering a sound, and always retaining his hold of his beak-full of caterpillars. Presently the hen returned with her beak full of caterpillars, but she would not come within 75 feet of the nest.

Suddenly the sky became overcast, and I saw that if I wished to arrive home dry I must depart, but I was sorry to leave the birds as I was departing from Naini Tal on the following day.

Before I had reached home I found myself enveloped in what the Scotch call a " wet mist." At certain seasons of the year rain storms come up as suddenly in the Himalayas as they do in the Grampians.

Disappointments of Aviculture.

By Mrs. F. Longdon.

I see that members of *Bird Notes* are asked to send accounts of their successes and also failures. Well, I fear these notes must come under the latter category, as I have had no luck at all. In the spring I purchased a beautiful pair of Rosella Parrakeets, and put them in my large out-door aviary. All went well, the hen duly chose a large log nest and deposited therein five eggs. She hatched out two, one died but the other grew into a most promising looking youngster, and emerged from the log nest fully fledged, showing lovely bits of bright colour; as it could not fly I put it back again but it refused to stay and crawled about on the ground; being lovely weather and plenty of trees for it to get under, I thought it would be best for it to use its wings; however, the weather changed, and one cold day I saw it did not look so well, pneumonia set in and soon carried it off! *(See Mr. Gray's remarks under Post Mortem reports.—Ed.)*

Red Headed Finches.—These birds go to nest every three weeks I should say, but I find they invariably smother their young with feathers, and stamp them to death when they reach the age of 10 days or so. I never interfere with their nests till I am absolutely obliged to remove the dead youngster. I give them ant eggs, cut up meal-worms, soft food, but they refuse to touch anything but meal-worms. They are in the same aviary as the Rosellas, which is full of trees and shrubs. *(Less meal-worms, with live ants' eggs (cocoons) and well scoured gentles would probably bring about more successful results—but this species is noted as an unsatisfactory rearer of its young.—Ed.)*

Gouldian Finches. One pair nested in a coco-nut husk: the hen sat well, but at the end of a fortnight I saw them looking into another husk, so I took their's down and found no eggs at all, and I think the cock must have eaten them, as the next time they went to the nest I caught him in the very act with one in his beak.

Lavender Finches.—These dear little birds built an enormous nest on the top of a box in my bird room, but at the end of ten days or so they forsook it. On examination, I found 4 eggs which were infertile

Zebra Finches. These birds, like the Red-headed Finches, build nest after nest and usually build on the top of their young ones, rearing them to a week or 10 days old, and then forsaking them.

Canaries. It has been a fairly good year for rearing these, but I have lost a good number of these birds from the parents leaving them to die when nearly fully fledged, and neglecting to feed them. I conclude these few notes by saying, that in spite of all disappointments, my birds give me unlimited interest and pleasure.

Foreign Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 170).

CHAPTER III.—Sub-family EUPHONIIÆ.

In connection with this genus I propose dropping the designation Tanager altogether, and to follow Mr. C. W. Beebe, and term them Euphonias—i.e., Violet Euphonia, etc.—this is really the only way by which confusing duplication of the popular names of the various genera of the TANAGRIDÆ can be avoided.

The whole of the genus *Euphonia* need careful nursing as new arrivals, but when once established, are not unduly difficult to keep fit, though it must be admitted that they are more susceptible to sudden and unseasonable weather changes, than for instance, *Callisite* and *Tanagra* While quite capable of standing an ordinary English summer out of doors, and if placed in a well sheltered aviary in late spring, some of the species will undoubtedly breed at no distant date, at least the well-known *violacea* has already nested and laid eggs in the aviaries of our esteemed members, W. E. Teschemaker, R. Suggitt and A. Sutcliffe (these events will be referred to later when dealing with the species), but I do not consider them fit subjects for attempting to winter out of doors, though, of course, if care is only exercised, there are many sunny and genial days, during which they could have a two or three hours exercise in any out-door flight attached to their winter quarters ; this would tend to their general well-being, but in my opinion the whole of the genus *Euphonia* should be kept strictly indoors during the raw-and-damp cold days, which characterize at any rate a portion of an English winter, and which too often, alas ! are not unknown in the midst of summer. Of course, in making so sweeping an assertion, I am assuming that the species (fully one half of the genus), yet unknown to English aviculture are about on a par constitutionally with the well-known Violet Enphonia.

Though this genus has been known to aviculturists in this country and on the continent, almost as long as any of the *Tanagridæ*, yet fully one half, or more, of the species have not yet been imported to Great Britain as living birds.

Their pleasing qualities are almost numerous—beauty of plumage, fair capacity of song, an inclination to reproduce their kind, if given suitable quarters, i.e., a natural aviary, and a confidence in and ready recognition of those who attend to their wants.

The necessary diet has already been given (vide pp. 137 8) and the additional requirements of new arrivals will be found on p. 163.

With these preliminary remarks it will only be necessary to describe the various species, and quote such notes of their wild and aviary life as may be accessible

SECTION I.—THE YELLOW-FRONTED EUPHONIA (*E. musica*).

DESCRIPTION (*male*): Upper surface rich purplish-black; forehead bright yellow, with a narrow border of black, which separates it from the cap of rich blue; rump, upper tail-coverts and under surface of body rich orange-yellow; throat lustrous black; inner margins of wing-feathers white; bill, legs and feet black. Total length $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The female is olive-green, with the under surface of body lighter and washed with yellowish; cap blue; forehead-yellowish.

This species has not yet been imported to this country alive, but it has been exhibited at the Amsterdam Zoo.

YELLOW-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*E insignis*). This species is a native of Ecuador, and is very similar to *E. musica*; however it is easily distinguished therefrom by its slightly large size, narrower frontal band, which is also tinged with chestnut, and the almost entire absence of the purplish gloss on the plumage of the upper surface—in very strong and bright lights, at a certain angle, a faint purplish tinge is discernable—and the black upper tail-coverts. It is very rare and I have never seen, even the skin of the female, which I believe has not been described—however there is little doubt but that it would closely resemble the female of *E. musica* viz., the prevailing hue olive-green, the under surface lighter and marked with yellowish.

SCLATER'S EUPHONIA (*E. sclateri*). A native of Porto Rico, very similar to the two preceding species, but may be readily distinguished therefrom by the absence of the black-throat. It is rare and at present I believe is only known from skins, and even these are not numerous —it is quite possible however, some of these rarer species may have leaked through and been confounded with well-known species, for with many of them, unless compared with authoritative skins, identification is a rather difficult problem.

Adult Male: Upper surface black, strongly suffused with purplish; cap bright blue; forehead, rump and under surface of body orange-yellow; the forehead is separated from the cap by a narrow black band; bill, legs. and feet black. Total length 4·2 inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Female: Upper surface olive-green; rump lighter olive green;

under surface of body olive-green, strongly suffused (comparatively) with yellowish ; cap blue ; forehead reddish ; bill, legs and feet black.

Black-necked Euphonia (*E nigricollis*). A brilliant and beautiful species, which is known to British aviculture, several specimens have reached the London Zoological Gardens, through the generosity of Captain Pain, from one of which my description is taken ; it had however appeared previously, as long ago as 1866, but it is still quite rare. According to the catalogue of the British Museum they have a fairly wide range—" South America from Columbia to Paraguay and Central Peru. Specimens from Western Ecuador (sub species *pelzelni*, *v. Berlepsch*) are of a paler, less orange, yellow on the rump and below " I am taking no note of this sub species as I do not consider it sufficiently distinct.

In its cage at the Zoo this species was very attractive, fearless, vivacious, of very handsome plumage, and its note very pleasing.

Adult male : Upper surface, very rich purplish-black ; forehead, throat and sides of the head black ; cap and nape bright blue ; rump, and under surface of body, orange-yellow ; inner margins of wing-feathers, pale grey ; bill, blackish ; legs and feet, brownish. Total length, 4½ inches, tail 1½.

Female : Upper surface, olive-green ; rump, lighter olive-green ; forehead chestnut, separated from the blue cap by a narrower band of black ; under surface, olive-green, strongly suffused with yellowish which is most pronounced in the centre of abdomen ; bill, legs and feet, as male.

Chestnut-fronted Euphonia (*E. elegantissima*). A beautiful and distinct species, of which I have not seen a living specimen. It ranges over Southern and Central America, extending to Panama.

Russ records the species (on the authority of A. von Frantzius) as occuring abundantly near San Jose in Costa Rica, where the birds are caught and caged, mostly for sake of their song—they are found in clear spaces and upon withered trees, and were found to feed upon the fruit of a parasitical plant, very similar to mistletoe.

This species has been imported to the continent ; both A. E. Brehm and the late Dr. Russ have possessed living specimens, but I cannot trace any as having reached this country.

Adult male. Upper surface, lustrous purplish-black ; frontal band (narrow) rich dark chestnut, separated from the blue cap by a black line ; cap and nape, bright blue ; throat black ; under surface of body, ruddy-orange ; inner margins of wing-feathers, white ; bill, black ; legs and feet brownish. Total length, 4½ inches, tail, 1½.

Female: Upper surface, olive-green; forehead, chestnut; cap, blue; under surface, yellowish olive-green, more distinctly yellowish in the centre of the abdomen; throat, reddish.

GOLD-FRONTED EUPHONIA (*E. flavifrons*). The male of this species is somewhat similar to the females of the preceding species, especially *sclateri*, but the colours are brighter and more lustrous, the yellow areas especially being larger and more pronounced in hue, also the olive-greens are richer and more glossy than is the case with any female Euphonia.

Two specimens of this species were presented to the London Zoo in 1889, but I cannot trace any other importations of living specimens.

Adult male: General body colouring, rich olive-green; darker and richer on the upper surface; rump, yellowish olive-green; forehead, rich yellow, separated from the blue cap by a narrow black band; cap and nape, blue; throat, yellowish; sides of the head dark olive green; bill, blackish-brown colour; legs and feet brownish. Total length 4¼ inches, tail 1⅜.

Female: Very similar to the male, but paler and greyer in hue.

(*To be continued.*)

Book Notices and Reviews.

Canaries, Hybrids and British Birds in Cage and Aviary:—Cassell and Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part IV.—Well sustains the practical nature of the earlier parts. The chapter on nests and appliances is completed. It also contains chapters on in-door and out-door aviaries, and the commencement of a chapter entitled:—"The egg and development of the young bird." It is illustrated by some well chosen and excellently reproduced photos of in-door and out-door aviaries and diagramatic figures of constructive parts in the text. The frontispiece is a coloured plate of Canaries, figuring Three-pointed Buff, Clear yellow, Yellow-green and evenly Cinnamon-marked-yellow. Part V.—The chapter on "The Egg and Development of the Young Bird" is completed; it also contains a chapter on "Pairing and Sitting," and the commencement of one on "Hatching and Rearing." The half-tone and line illustrations in the text are both numerous and excellent, also a good coloured plate of British Birds, figuring Song Thrush, Blackbird, and Waswing. In every respect these parts are equal to their predecessors.

The Disinfection of Bird Rooms and Cages.—by G. Yates, M.R.C.V.S.—Published by F. Carl, 154 Fleet Street, London, E.C. 2½d, post free.

A most interesting and useful booklet, very comprehensive, concise and practical—its arrangement is as follows:—The value of disinfectants—Prior to disinfecting building, cages, etc.—Some relative values of disinfectants—Physical disinfection or disinfection by heat—Routine of disinfection - When is disinfection complete - Importance of a Quarantine Period. We can thoroughly reccommend this little treatise to our readers.

Ailing Cage Birds. by F. Carl, 154 Fleet Street, London, E.C., 2½d. post free.

Interesting, simple and concise ; a useful little manual, consisting of a number of simple remedies, for the more common and treatable remedies of cage birds, and should prove a useful guide for the bird-room.

Other useful works for the Ornithologist are :

The Birds of Dumfriesshire. by H. S. Gladstone, £1 1s. net

A Monograph of the Petrels, with one hundred hand-coloured plates, complete, £15 15s. Witherby and Co., 326, High Holborn, London.

The British Warblers. A History with "Problems of their Lives" by H. Eliot Howard, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Part IV., with coloured and photogravure plates 21s. net, per part. R. H. Porter, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, London.

Indian Birds. A key to the Common Birds of the Plains of India. By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S., etc., London, 1909. John Lane, Bodley Head. 6s. net.

This only came to hand just as we were going to press ; it is original, practical, and interesting ; it should be on the bookshelf of all interested in Indian Bird-life. *A detailed review will be given in our next issue.*

Editorial.

Nesting Notes : Breeding results are a little better, but not many definite results have been sent in :—

JACARINI FINCHES (*Volatinia jacarini*) : Our esteemed member Mr. R. Suggitt has succeeded in breeding this species, and two strong young birds are on the wing in his out-door aviary at Cleethorpes. This is the first time this species has been bred in Great Britain, of which we shall hope to have an account in our next issue, and consequently Mr. Suggitt is entitled to the Club's medal by his success. The female parent was imported by our esteemed member Mr. E. W. Harper, and until comparatively recently was the only female in this country, now some half-dozen specimens are distributed among various aviculturists, and the Zoo I think now possess one specimen.

TANAGERS : Several interesting records may be given re this beautiful family, indicating to the optimist at any rate that several species may be successfully reared in the near future. First and foremost I must record the very nearly successful breeding of the Blue Tanager by our esteemed member Mr. A. Sutcliffe in his out-door aviary at Grimsby, who had a brood of two reared till they were fully fledged, and within a day or two of leaving the nest, when the parent birds for some reason stopped feeding and went to nest again. Mr. Sutcliffe sent me one of the young birds, which unfortunately was quite high when it reached me and I could not have it preserved, but by taking it out of doors I was able to get the following description: Well developed and feathered, upper surface blue, duller and greener than that of the adult bird, the dark areas of the wing browner than in the adult; down mouse-brown; under surface pale whitish-blue ....entirely lacking the lustre of the adult. Our member's disappointment must have been very keen, to fail after coming so near success. We certainly hope that complete success will be attained at the second attempt, and that Mr. Sutcliffe will send a detailed account for publication in "B.N." of this interesting occurrence.

Our esteemed member the Hon. Mrs. McLaren Morrison informs me that her Archbishop Tanager, kept in a cage indoors, has laid an egg, but has made no attempt at incubation: she rightly considers this a rather uncommon occurrence. Mrs. Morrison has also recently acquired a specimen of the very rare Short-tailed Parrot (*P. brachyurus*).

Our esteemed member Captain J. S. Reeve has reared a hybrid Cape Canary x Canary, 17 eggs in all were laid, only one of which was fertile. He also has a brood of St. Helena Waxbills all but ready to leave the nest: they are being reared on ants' cocoons and a few gentles.

At the Zoo, a pair of Blue-winged Tanagers (*Calliste cyanoptera*) have built a nest in a box tree, in one of the Bird of Paradise flights and are steadily incubating three eggs, but the result, which we hope will be successful, was not known at time of penning these notes.

FINCHES AND CARDINALS: Our esteemed member Dr. Easton Scott is meeting with a fair measure of success in his new and roomy natural out-door aviary. So far the following species have young either on the wing or about to leave the nest: Green Cardinals (1), again incubating a clutch of four eggs; Cuban Finches (3); Long-tailed Grassfinches (3); Masked Grassfinches (3); Silverbill x Olive Finch Hybrids (4)—this latter success will entitle Dr. E. Scott to the Club medal. He remarks: "The soft food mixture with plenty of ants' eggs seem to suit the young birds well but of course they get a lot of insects in the big flight." We shall hope for an article from his pen in a near issue.

HYBRID RED-CRESTED X GREEN CARDINAL : Dr. Andrew Walker informs me that a young hybrid was reared in his aviaries last summer and is still living. A detailed record will be published in our next issue from Dr. Walker's pen.

HYBRID PARRAKEET—KING x CRIMSON-WING : Our esteemed member Mr. J. Frostick kindly sent me a young bird (too far gone for preservation, alas !) one of three hatched and fed well for three weeks, then stopped—the other two were fortunately discovered in time and are being hand reared. The young bird was practically full grown and was a mass of down and pen feathers, the latter were just bursting, with the quills about half developed—the colouration of the head and neck I ascertained by opening the pen feathers ; upper surface dark grass-green ; lower back and rump yellowish-green with faint red tips to most of the feathers ; wing feathers as back, but mostly tipped with yellow and blotched with red in centre of tip ; tail dark grass-green, with broad red tips ; under surface grass-green, with the feathers of the abdomen broadly tipped with red, some red for three parts their length ; beak yellowish-horn colour ; legs and feet light bluish-grey. In this instance too I had to take my notes out of doors !

HYBRID BULBULS : Just on going to press our esteemed member Mr. W. T. Rogers informs me that a pair of Red-cheeked x Syrian Bulbuls have hatched out three promising youngsters, and that up to the present they were being well fed.

SWAINSON LORIKEETS : Our esteemed member Miss Rosa C. Little has again met with success with this species—one young bird of this year is on the wing and independent of its parents, who are again busily engaged in the duties of incubation.

ZOO NESTING NOTES : In addition to the Blue-winged Tanager already noticed, the following have reared young as under :—

	Number reared
Variegated Sheldrakes (*Tadorna variegata*)	six
Upland Goose (*Chloëphaga magellanica*)	one
Common Sheldrakes (*T. cornuta*)	two
Ruddy Sheldrakes (*T. casarca*)	nine

	Number reared.
Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*)	six
Chestnut-breasted Teal (*Nettium castaneum*)	five
Brush Bronze-winged Pigeons (*Phaps elegans*)	two
Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)	four
Reeves' Pheasants (*Phasianus reevesi*)	nine
Elliots' ,, (*P. ellioti*)	six
Amhersts' ,, (*P. amherstiæ*)	two
Silver ,, (*Euplocamus nycthemerus*)	thirteen
Peacock ,, (*Polyplectron chinquis*)	one
Hybrid Snow Goose, one (bred from hybrids between *Chen cœrulescens* x *C. nivalis*)	
Hybrid Yellow-billed Ducks (*Anas undulata* x *A. obscura*),	

In addition on the occasion of recent visits the following were either engaged in incubation or rearing young: Australian Rails and Reeves; Red-shouldered Starling and American Robin—the results are not known at time of penning these notes.

Most bird lovers will be glad to hear that the cages in the "Small Bird House" are being removed and their place being taken by three roomy flights. There will be some who will disagree with the above remarks, because of the difficulty of identifying small birds in a collective group—I fear such must do the same as myself, manage to identify the birds by spending a little more time in observation—in spite of this difficulty, I at any rate, was glad to note the removal of all that mahogany and polish!

The Magazine: With this issue is enclosed a revised leaflet "Objects of the Club." Each member is urged to pass this on to some friend who is interested in birds with an invitation to become a member of the club. A further supply can be obtained by application to our esteemed Hon. Business Secretary. Enclosing this circular with all applications for birds, from people outside the Society, is a fruitful source of obtaining new members and I trust all will help in this manner.

Hornbills: The fine series of photographs illustrating Dr. Hopkinson's notes of these interesting birds in his article on "Birds of Gambia" were taken by our esteemed Hon. Bus. Sec., Mr. H. Willford, from living specimens at the Zoo. Mr. Willford kindly brought up his camera specially for the occasion and we are much indebted to him for the fine series which appeared in

July issue "B.N." The proofs of the plates only came to hand at the last moment, and in the rush any note as to their source was omitted both from title and text, which we much regret.

Club Medals : The following are entitled to medals for breeding a species or hybrid for the first time in Great Britain, providing an account of their success is sent in for publication in the Magazine :—

For Species.

H. Willford—Painted Finch (*Emblema picta*)
H. Willford—Dusky Finch (*Phonipara bicolor*)
R. Suggitt—Jacarini Finch (*Volatinia jacarini*)
E. J. Brook—Stella's Lory (*Charmosyna stellæ*)

For Hybrids.

Lady E. D. Pennant—1 Cape x Yellow Sparrow (*P. arcuatus* x *P. luteus*)
Mark Aronstein—5 Siskins (*C. icterica* x *C, spinus*)
Dr. Andrew Walker—1 R.C. x Green Cardinal (*P. cucullata* x *G. cristata*)
Dr. Easton Scott—4 Silverbill x Olive Finch (*A. cantans* x *P. lepida*)

The above medals are awarded subject to a detailed account being sent in for publication in the Magazine, where such has not already appeared. The medals will be distributed at the end of the breeding season, so that they may be procured and engraved under one transaction.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Our Native Birds: The nest in the illustration (see plate on p. 204) is that of the Willow Wren, and was found in the grass by the roadside near Effingham.

One day last May I had a pleasant ramble, with the members of the National British Bird and Mule Club. Turning from Cobham we walked through some lovely country, keeping for some time close to the river ; the bird life we saw was both numerous and interesting, over fifty different species being noted during the course of the day.

After lunch at Effingham we walked across common and meadow land to Horseley where we finished up with a tea. Perhaps the most notable nest we saw was a Moor-hen's with eggs in it, Willow Wrens* containing seven eggs (we should never have found this nest but for the little hen flying up from our feet, to save herself from being trodden on). The nest was tucked away under a tuft of grass, a little of which had to be cleared away to enable me to photograph it; a Tree Creeper's nest, with two young almost ready to fly was found in a crevase in the woodwork of the summer house where we had lunch, a Chiff Chaff's nest with eggs was found in a hedge bank off the high road, and many nests of Blackbirds, Thrushes, Linnets, and Chaffinches. On walking across the Common we disturbed a Snipe, and, on searching round we found she had been sitting on four eggs; there was no nest, just an indentation in the grass; the eggs were similiar to the Plover's but smaller, and were arranged in the nest with all the pointed ends together. A Lapwing was flying about over our heads uttering protesting cries, and, was presently joined by another, evidently its mate, but although we searched diligently we could not find the nest; a Hedge Sparrow's nest with a cuckoo's egg in it was seen, but one of the prettiest sights met with during our ramble was a Chaffinch, that had built her nest in a projection on the bare trunk of a large tree about ten feet from the ground. She continued sitting steadily while we gathered round to have a look, but when one or two of us presented cameras off she flew; this was too much.

Several families of Long-tailed Tits were seen sporting about the trees overhanging the river. Nightingales were both seen and heard, also a Goldfinch and Bullfinch.

Much interest was caused by the discovery of an almost White Sparrow on the out-buildings of a farm. The farmer stated it had been there this last two years. The weather being perfect the whole day, we had a most enjoyable and interesting time.

T. MILLER, F.Z.S.

The above notes should have accompanied the plate in last issue, but were mislaid during the Editor's migration.

Haunts of our Feathered Friends.

The Hon. Mrs. Somerset Ward.

Probably wherever there is a piece of water in this country whether large or small, he brisk neat little "Moor-hen," called by ornithologists the Gallinule or Little Fowl (the terms Moor-cock and Moor-fowl being usually applied to the Ptarmigan), is to be found hiding among the reeds and herbage growing on its margin ; building its nest on the roots of low branches of submerged trees. There are several of this species of Water-fowl on the small lake in these grounds, Carrowdorr Castle, Donaghadee, Co. Down, and it is always a pleasure and interest to watch their sharp, quick movements as they suddenly appear from their hiding places, and prepare to sail across the smooth water, with the two white tail feathers twisted and very conspicuous, intended it is said, to act as signals to their young ones and guide and direct their movements. The reflection of the swimmer in the clear water beneath, marking the contrast between the dark plumage and the two white feathers above and below the surface has a curious effect being very clearly defined as seen on a calm summer's evening, when the shadows begin to fall across the water. The young ones, some half grown, some only a few days old, and covered with soft down, seem quite satisfied to be left alone for a time, picking up insects and running about on the mud among the rushes, till the mother bird comes in sight again, when they swim out a very short distance to meet and return with her to land. These "Little Fowl" are easily tamed and run readily to receive the crumbs of bread thrown to them from a boat without showing any fear from it and its occupants' proximity to their play ground. Sea-gulls are often seen swimming on the lake, and Herons constantly flap lazily down to its edge, and sit for hours fishing, though eels are the only fish that have been found in its waters– a Swan and Goose are the only residents besides the "Little Fowl." Though mates have been provided for them at different times they have always disappeared, as well as the several kinds of ducks, which have been placed there during the last six years. The Swan has been most useful in keeping the water free from a weed, which at one time threatened to overrun it. Traces of otters have been observed, and a dead one was picked up close to the lake, three or four years ago and now figures as a handsome specimen in a glass case. With the return of human inhabitants they are no longer to be seen. Hawks (Kestrels) happily survive, but the pair that used to bring up their young on one of the ivied turrets of the dwelling house, have now betaken themselves to some fir-trees at the farthest end of the lake, where they nest every spring. Formerly they came close to the house, one perched on the back of a garden seat where it stayed some time dressing itself in the sunshine and then flew slowly on to the grass apparently looking for insects; unfortunately a window was suddenly opened and frightened it away, never to re-appear in this delightfully confiding and familiar manner.

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* See plate page 204.

The Nesting Hole of a Pair of Nuthatches.

The Home of the Nuthatch.
H. L. Sich.

The hole in which the nest is placed is only about 18 inches from the base of the tree, an oak standing in a wood. The entrance hole, plastered round with mud in the usual way, stands about two feet from the bottom of the tree. When the photograph was taken (May 23rd, 1910) the young were half fledged. The owner of the wood told me that the birds have used the same site for several years. H. L. SICH.

Birds of a Garden: It is frequently said, and correctly so, that first impressions are usually rosy ones—most certainly the first impression of the bird life of my Mitcham garden have been very interesting ones; during the exceedingly brief intervals I have been able to devote to observation—but, awful as it may sound to some, here in Surrey, a county in which the birds are protected all the year round, I fear some species will have to be treated as *vermin*, if I expect to have any fruit to gather! I only purpose remarking in this brief note that I have already observed being fed in the garden, broods of: Willow Wren, Chaffinches, Robins, Starlings, Thrushes, Blackbirds, and Blue Tits, while I have also seen individuals of: Owl (Barn I think), Long-tailed Tit, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, and Linnet, while on Sunday afternoon last (July 31st) a young Cuckoo disported itself about the fences around the lawn. Three weeks ago I heard but did not see our "Queen of Songsters" the Nightingale (possibly a captive bird). I have only at present discovered two nests,* but that there are, or have been many others, in some very tall Lombardy Poplars bordering the lawn, my ears have assured me. Further notes must however be left till I have had a more extended acquaintance with the wild life of my garden. W.T.P.

Correspondence.

HOMING BLACK-FACED LOVEBIRD.

SIR.—The following particulars I think might interest some of our members. On January 9th, 1909, I purchased a pair of this species from our esteemed member, Mr. Millsum. During the time I have kept them, they have apparently been in the best of health until two or three weeks ago, when I noticed the hen was ailing; it got no better and died June 21st.

On Sunday morning, June 26th, I saw the cock bird in my garden aviary, but in the afternoon I found it was missing, and after a little search found a small opening where it had evidently passed through to liberty. During the whole of the week I did not see or hear anything of it, and had quite made up my mind I should not again, but to my surprise on Sunday, July 3rd, I saw it on the aviary top. I opened the door and it immediately flew in. I may say it looked none the worse for the week's holiday.

W. H. PICKLES.

THE BREEDING OF GOULDIAN FINCHES.

SIR.—Possibly a few notes, by a novice, on the breeding of Gouldians may be of interest to some "B.N." readers. No doubt, to all true bird lovers, there comes at times, an overwhelming desire to possess and breed a particulars species. My first sight of a pair of Gouldians captivated me body and soul. Henceforth my desire in life was to possess a pair.

Gouldians at that time only last winter, seemed almost as extinct as the Dodo—at least as regards any being on sale. Eventually by the aid of an advertisement, coupled with, what to-day, would be regarded as a ridiculous offer, I obtained a beautiful and acclimatized pair from our esteemed Hon. Sec. In an unfortunate moment I decided to exhibit the cock, with the all too frequent result, he died of pneumonia. With the kindness which characterizes our Hon. Sec., he supplied me with an immature bird which turned out to be a hen. After much waiting I obtained a Red-headed cock (my first pair were Black-heads); but there was the young unmated hen, that must have a partner. About this time, Gouldians were arriving it seemed almost in ship loads, and in a weak moment, I hurriedly obtained a job lot as a "bargain." One survived—it is a very valuable bird! I turned out, about the second week in May, two pairs, the cocks both Red-headed with both hens of the Black-headed variety, into a fair sized garden aviary which was erected at odd moments, and is capable of many improvements. The first night we had a deluge accompanied by thunder and lightning. As soon as the worst of the storm had passed, I ventured forth to see how my treasures had fared. The first sight that met my gaze on entering the aviary was a drenched Red-headed Finch which I had always regarded almost unkillable. If "Satan" (for this Red-headed Finch is always regarded as the aviary devil) was in such a plight, what of the Gouldians? Disregarding Satan's misery I first searched the house attached to the flight. No Gouldians there, and my heart sank, but while I was carefully searching the flight suddenly a "pip pip" gladdened my ear, and by the aid of a light I discovered my gems safely ensconced in an apple tree growing in the flight, very, very wet, but "pip pip" very cheerful also and apparently all right. Next morning they were as "fit as fiddles" (tho' Satan had to be dried) and I was at rest as regards their hardiness. One pair immediately commenced nesting operations in an old travelling cage, situated in the darkest corner of the house; six eggs were laid. The situation was so dark that the nest and eggs were invisible without the aid of a light. At first the hen sat very spasmodically and I was on tenter hooks lest she spoilt the clutch. I had sense enough to leave her severely alone, and six young were hatched, and are at time of writing about ten days old. One fact has struck me as being rather peculiar, and that is, the gapes of the young birds are black with white specks that almost glisten in the darkness of the nest. Are these specks guides to the old birds in feeding?

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* Willow Wren and Thrush.

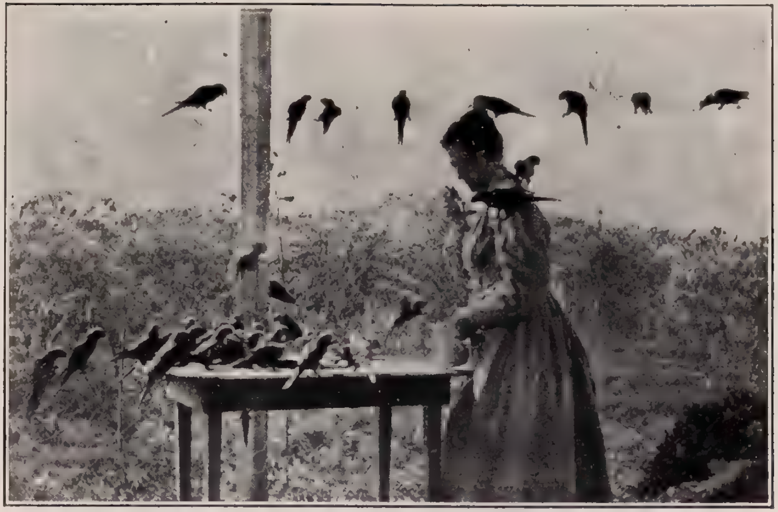
W. EDMUNDS.

P.S.—It is easy to write of success, but terribly hard to tell of disaster. Since penning the above, rats obtained an entrance to the aviary and devoured eggs, fledgelings, and old birds, leaving me with a pair of Gouldians and a pair of Zebra Finches. This havoc was wrought in two nights, entrance being effected under the felt and through a small hole in the roof of its house, that I failed at first to discover. The third night I captured the miscreants, five in number, and about half grown. To have six young Gouldians in the nest with every prospect of being reared, and then to so lose them, I felt to be very hard luck.

A PLEASING EPISODE ON AUSTRALIAN BIRD LIFE.

SIR.—The enclosed photograph was sent to me by my brother, who is engaged in sugar planting in the Mackay district of Queensland, Australia, and may be of interest to all lovers of the Parrakeet tribe. The scene depicted is a friend of ours feeding her flock of Parrakeets or Lorikeets in the verandah of her house.

The origin of the flock was somewhat peculiar. A young Parrakeet or Lorikeet was tamed and allowed to fly at large. He soon acquired a wild mate with whom he repaired to the bush to nest



Miss Innes and her Parrots.—A bird-table on an Australian Farm

In due course a brood was successfully reared, and forthwith brought back to the farm to share the hospitality of their kind hostess.

Since then the flock (I am at a loss to identify the species by the photo*) has continually increased, until they have become almost a nuisance.

W. EDMUNDS.

* Apparently Swainson (Blue Mountain) Lorikeets. -Ed.

LOVEBIRDS AND THEIR METHOD OF CARRYING NESTING MATERIAL.

Sir.—I have noticed a very interesting habit of the Madagascar Lovebird, which perhaps is not known to every keeper of this species. For two successive years this pair has nested in my aviary ; last year they used a nest box put up for my Cockateels as a receptacle in which to construct their home, lining it thickly with strips and leaves fallen from a pear tree. It was then autumn. Recently I have noticed, that is, for some days past, that the hen bird was spending a lot of time in the same nest-box, but when I looked to-day (July 16th) there was nothing in it except a few pieces of grass, so I thought I would give them some leaves. I straightway cut a large branch from an apple tree and put it in the aviary, fixing it up as a perch ; it was but a very short time before the hen bird began to gather the strips and leaves therefrom, and this is how she proceeded. Sitting on the branch she started at the stalk end and quickly bit a narrow piece off the whole length of the leaf, she then tucked this piece in the feathers of the lower part of her back ; she would do this at the rate of about 10 per minute, and I counted her cut off and tuck in her feathers twenty-one pieces before she flew away with them to the nest, and only two or three pieces falling out either en route or in arranging them in the nest.

The pieces of leaves gave the bird a curiously ragged appearance when viewed from the rear at fairly close quarters, but were not nearly as noticeable as one would surpose, the hue of the leaves being very similar to that of her plumage.

This seems to me a very unusual and clever habit, and I think if a branch with green leaves on was given to a pair of these it birds would perhaps induce them to nest more frequently.

H. B. LARNER.

Similar habits are common, either in a greater or lesser degree, to the Red-headed and Blue-winged (Passerine Parrakeets), and Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and also the various species of Hanging Parrakeets.—Ed.

BREEDING OF STELLA'S LORIES.

Sir.—In response to your enquiries, one of my young Stella's Lories has left the nest and is a well grown bird.

The period of incubation was about three weeks and the young bird was in the nest exactly two months.

The plumage is exactly the same as the adult birds, except that the flanks are yellow like the female parent, but the part of the back that in the adult female is yellow, is red as in the adult male. The beak of the young bird before it left the nest was brown, it is now gradually turning pink, but still has a decidedly brownish hue. The legs are of a slaty-flesh colour.

When this bird was about two weeks old the female parent died suddenly, but luckily the cock has proved a first rate nurse.

Another pair have nested and have a flourishing youngster in the nest, but it is not due to come into the open for another three weeks.

It is a pity there are not more Stellas in this country as they seem to be free breeders. All my birds are doing well, but many are in heavy moult.

E. J. BROOK.

MEMBERS' GATHERINGS AT THE ZOO.

Sir—I am asked to write a short account of these, and only wish it had been entrusted to abler hands than mine. There have been four so far, and three of them I speak from personal experience have been absolutely delightful; the surprising part being that the attendance has been so small. The weather (as weather goes now-a-days) was not unfavourable, nothing really to keep intending visitors away, so altogether the small number of members present was difficult to account for, and certainly not encouraging to our Editor, whose has left not a stone unturned to make them a success, which they have been every way save in the matter of numbers. However, what was lacking in quantity was made up in quality, for I have met most interesting people, aviarists from near and far, whose names I have long known, and whose acquaintance it was a pleasure to make.

I suppose one should not mention names, but in the case of a public character like our clever artist, Mr. Goodchild, such a restriction is surely unnecessary. He has been unfailing in his attendance, and no hours have been too long for him to devote to the discussion of ornithology, and to the enlightenment of those interested in the particular branch of it to which he devotes himself. Time fled all too rapidly on those occasions on which I was able to be present, and I was told that the whole day gathering on July 20th was really the outcome of a remark I made to Mr. Wesley Page, at the first meeting on saying good-bye, and thanking him, jokingly adding "half a day is no use to us at all. Please to invite us for a week next time." At half-past six, on each occasion, when I was reluctantly compelled to tear myself away, as far as I can remember I was the first to leave. We were, of course, tempted to look at other exhibits besides birds in that vast collection, but resisted in all save the case of the baby giraffe, then scarcely two days old (now, alas! no more) which really was excusable. We partook of excellent teas, and on the whole day gathering an equally excellent lunch, in the Pavilion devoted exclusively to the Fellows of the Society, which I regarded as a privilege, during which (like "the walrus and the carpenter") "we talked of many things," but otherwise, I think it may be said, we kept fairly well to our subject—the inexhaustible one of birds. If another year our Editor is not too much discouraged to arrange for further meetings, I hope they will meet with greater success numerically and—may I be there to see!

(Mrs.) E. A. H. HARTLEY.

Personally I am not discouraged, all new features must have a beginning, and these gatherings will grow. I can only add that my personal enjoyment and interest has equalled that of the writer of the above notes. One distinct feature of these gatherings has been the attendance of members who have come up from a long distance specially to attend; this is distinctly encouraging.—Ed.

Post-Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help me to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. were in sending me dead birds to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

Red-crested Cardinal ♀ (A. V. Johnson, Southport). The cause of death was septic or bird fever. The liver and spleen were very much enlarged and contained innumerable small yellowish nodular looking bodies. You must thoroughly wash, scrape, and disinfect your aviary, utensils, etc., and take care none of the living birds, although apparently well, do not keep up the disease. Disinfection is useless to prevent the spread of the malady unless all the birds containing the germs are got rid of. One cannot say when a bird is free from it. In an out-door aviary it runs a slower course than in an in-door bird-room, where it spreads rapidly and eventually kills off most, if not all, the avian inmates. Food has nothing to do with the complaint unless the disease be introduced by eggs from fowls that have had the disease. Experimental enquiry has shown that eggs of birds having had disease may contain the germs. It is so with tuberculosis, bird cholera, septic fever, etc. The question arises how long may a disease remain dormant in the system. Recent experience has lead investigators to conclude that infection may in certain instances remain in the system weeks, months, or years, without the bearer showing any signs of disease but still quite capable of giving off the germs, and infecting sound animals or people. As to disinfection, many of the so-called disinfectants are worthless especially if they have a strong odour and are well guaranteed (?) The best are: fire, sunlight, super-heated steam, boiling water, the scrubbing brush and plenty of water and soap mixed with elbow grease. Of course, some of the agents just mentioned are impracticable in an aviary. A reliable and cheap disinfectant for wood-work after it has been scraped, scrubbed, and washed, is the crude carbolic or crysilic acid painted on the wood. It will destroy or render inert the diseased germs. The acid should not be diluted but used just as purchased Some people won't admit they have the disease in their aviaries when they really have it.

Bullfinch ♀ (The Countess C. von Hahn, Wimbledon). The cause of death was pneumonia and enteritis. It is a condition common in these birds especially during inclement, changeable, or chilly weather, and the moulting season.

Golden-breasted Waxbill (L. Peacock, Sidcup, Kent). The cause of death was a chill, due no doubt to exposure to the inclement weather we have experienced this summer before the bird was thoroughly acclimatised. Cold of itself is not so injurious as wet chilly weather. Always endeavour to put foreign birds out into the open in settled weather. The Waxbills are relatively more delicate than the Mannikins and Weavers. One usually loses a very great number of birds before one learns wisdom, which is only obtained by experience notwithstanding what wiseacres say to the contrary.

Diamond Sparrow. (Frank Howe, Wellingborough). It was a hen and not a cock as stated. The cause of death was pneumonia and enteritis due to the inclement weather. I don't think the disease is of an infectious origin although several birds may die from it at the same time.

Yellow Budgerigar ♂ (D. Croisdale Kirk, Blair Athol). Cause of death, pneumonia. This disease is very prevalent during wet, chilly, or changeable weather.

Young Canary (T. R. Hadley, Burton-on-Trent). Cause of death, enteritis.

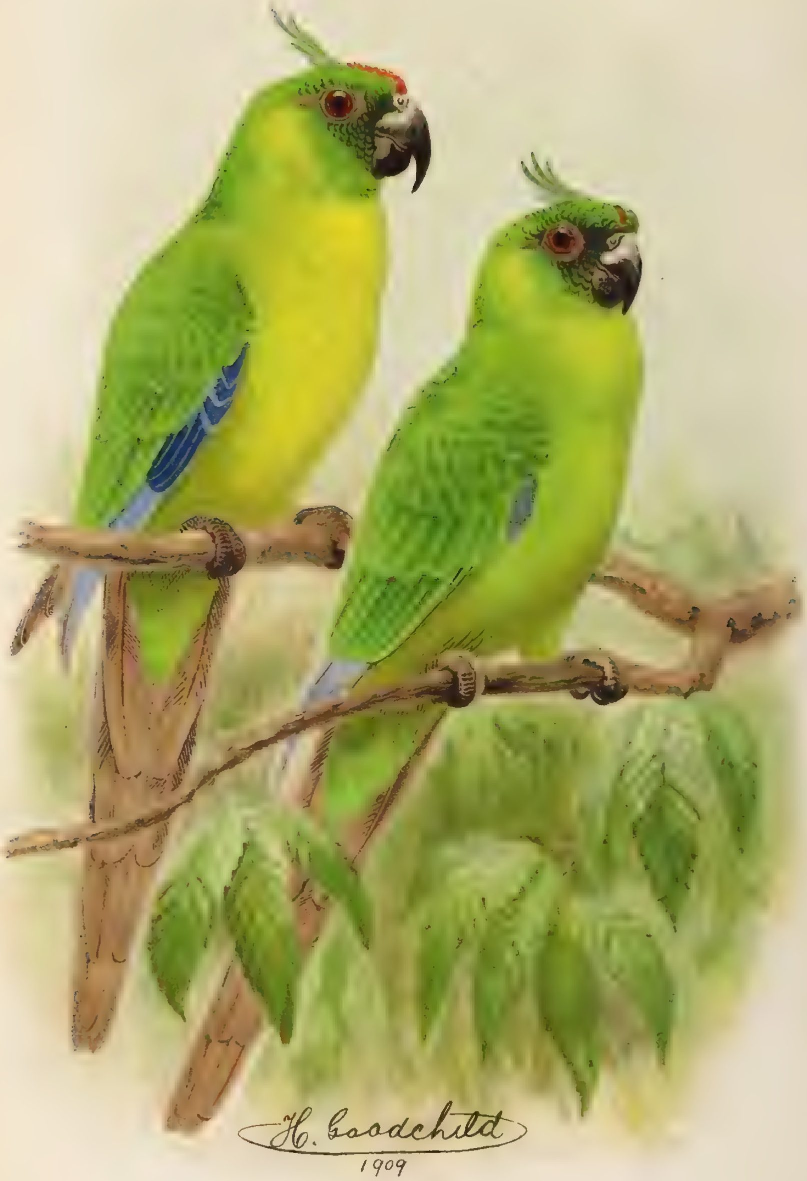
Tanager (T. R. Hadley, Burton-on-Trent). Cause of death, enteritis.

Catarrhal Enteritis has been very common in birds this season. It has been due to the bad weather we have been experiencing, and improper digestion of the food. The difficulty of clearing the vent of fæces is one of the symptoms of catarrhal enteritis. There were no signs of the true bird fever, which generally shows lesions in the liver and spleen. Food turning sour sets up all the lesions as shown in your birds. I don't think the Lysol had anything to do with it. In future when you notice such symptoms, give the birds milk sop made with condensed milk, maltine, and the best of sponge cake. Also add some chalk mixture to it, a dessert-spoon-ful to about four ounces (capacity) of the food.

Answered by Post.—Ernest Street, Mrs. Pattison Yeoman, Watson B. Marmont, and O. Millsum (Belguim).

A Precaution.—Members of the Foreign Bird Club should at this or any other time of the year insist upon having A WRITTEN GUARANTEE on purchasing a bird, that bird-fever or any other infectious disease of birds does not exist in the bird-room, aviary, or shop of the seller. If bird-fanciers were to adopt this policy they could prevent to a certain extent unscrupulous persons dissiminating infectious diseases, as it would render the sellers liable to pay compensation for any loss arising from a breach of the guarantee.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.


H. Goodchild
1909

Huth, lith et imp

UVÆAN PARRAKEETS ♂ & ♀

(Nymphicus uvæensis)

From living specimens in the possession of H. Willford Esq.^{re}

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Uvaean Parrakeet.

(Nymphicus uvæensis).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

I have never kept this species, as they only appear on the market at rare intervals, and then either when my accommodation was too full up or when I did not feel I could afford the high figure asked for them. However I have studied the species at the Zoo and in friends' aviaries, but though the species has been long known to aviculturists it does not appear to be properly understood and the specimens so far imported have mostly enjoyed but a short life in this country: so I consider a compilation of the experience of those who have kept it will be the most practical course to take, and with Mr. Goodchild's beautiful and life like drawing before us, a description of their plumage is quite uncalled for.

The Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton has had this species on more than one occasion. His first specimen only lived a day or two; later he had eight at once, but they soon died off one by one *(vide B.N., Vol. VIII., p.* 217*).*

Canon Dutton writes in the *Avicultural Magazine, Vol. III, p.* 130, respecting seven which he possessed in 1897, which unfortunally did not live long, as follows: –

> "I am persuaded it is a food difficulty. I was told they "had been brought over on paddy, hemp, canary, and monkey nuts. "I have tried bananas and grapes: they were not approved of. I "have also given millet, hemp, canary, boiled rice, boiled Indian "corn, bread and milk, sponge cake, pea nuts, and chilies; every-"thing is easily eaten at first: the ones that were the first to "succumb eating seed till almost the very last. But these later "ones refuse food—though one of them likes to have bread and "milk given it occasionally."

Mr. R. Phillips writes in the same journal respecting two which came into his possession on Feb. 12th 1897, as follows:—

"I obtained a pair on Feb. 12—but the male (which was "sick when I received it) died in a few days. The female is "strong and clever on the wing, runs actively about, has become "fairly (comparatively) tight in plumage, and seems pretty well "established. She is tame as a kitten; flies on our heads, arms "anywhere, and calls out to me if she hears my voice in the house."

"For standard food she has canary, hemp, crumbled biscuit "(dry), and date or fig cut into small pieces; she has also had "millet, and oats, but took them only occasionally. Now and then "she is treated to a sound banana (*not* peeled), and sometimes "she will attack half an orange. The great difficulty with her "has been to relieve her great craving for grit, and to get her "digestive arrangements into order without having a block or "stoppage of any kind. With wheatmeal biscuit, the hardest bits of "toast-crust, etc. she seems to have got into a fairly healthy "state, and ought to do now. Sometimes I have given fluid "magnesia in the drinking water, and sometimes sulphate of iron."

"She is in the dining room, and at breakfast her cage "door is opened and she at once makes for the bread—I never "let her have crumb, only the hard crust. Soft things like "butter and mamalade she does not like. I encourage her to drink "and I think it is good for her, She likes to go for the plants "in the window . . . . so possibly a taste of green food "might be beneficial."

Canon Dutton continues his remarks and states that he has come to the conclusion that they are seedeaters, but arrived with impaired digestions and that if he had treated them as a person recovering from starvation they might have been saved. They ought to have been kept chiefly on sop, and allowed to have seed only very gradually.

Canon Dutton has had other specimens, some of which have soon died and others which have lived for about 12 months, and the London Zoo have kept one or more specimens for the same period. There is a very fine specimen in the Zoo Parrot House at the present time. This bird is dieted on a seed mixture of hemp, oats, canary and Indian corn; boiled maize, lettuce, banana, apple and grapes, of the two latter fruits it is very fond.

On the Continent both *N. uvæensis* and *N. cornutus* have been kept, and Baron von Comely succeeded first in breeding three hybrids between the two species, and later successfully reared young of *N. unæensis.*

Dr. Russ also does not consider the species unduly difficult to keep, and recommends all kinds of green food, mostly salad, millet, canary, hemp, and they may be accustomed to all kinds of seeds, fresh ants' cocoons, mealworms, ants' cocoon mixture with egg-bread, service berries,* and apple.

Personally I should advise a diet of seed mixture (millet, canary, oats and hemp), unlimited green food (lettuce, mustard, cress, etc), such ripe fruit as it appeared to fancy, live ants' cocoons, mealworms, little insectile mixture, and only give grit with great caution, accustoming it very gradually to same. I must however add, that as full particulars as possible should be obtained as to previous diet and treatment, and however unwholesome this may appear to be, a sudden change should not be made; it must gradually be brought on to the proper diet.

N. cornutus, the Horned Parrakeet differs from the Uvæan in the crest consisting of only two long feathers, green tipped with red and by a patch of yellow on the nape.

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., etc.

In response to my request for details Mr. Astley kindly sent me the following notes.—Editor.

I can say little or nothing with regard to this species, but I believe that it would be a most charming Parrakeet if one could obtain a strong healthy lot. Its colour is so rich a magnolia-leaf green, with the touch of cardinal red on the forehead its movements are attractive, and its voice not altogether aggressive. The individuals of this species which were imported last winter all died I believe, and were not very long about it either.

I found my Uvæans were very fond of fruit, but they ate seed also, and had it been the right season, I should have tried them with fresh ants' "eggs."

Once through their first moult, after importation, they would probably be quite hardy in an outdoor aviary, for they are birds that need some space, and they would nest readily, no doubt.

**After Mr. Brook's experience with Service Berries (vide B.N., Vol. VIII., p.* 172*) I should hesitate to supply these.*

A young Uvæan, hand reared, would be a delightful pet.

These parrakeets always seem to me to be relatives of the lovely New Zealand Parrakeet *(Cyanoramphus novæ-zealandiæ)*; there is a cousinly resemblance in movements and style, etc.

The first cousin of the Uvæan—that is, the Horned Parrakeet—must be more fascinating than the former.

Bye-the-bye! Dealers would insist upon calling the Uvæan, the Horned Parrakeet, which was misleading until one saw them.

[Mr. Willford's birds did not live very many weeks and he does not care to make any remarks concerning them, save that he regretted losing such rare, beautiful and interesting birds.—Editor.]

Breeding of the Jacarini Finch.

(Volatinia jacarini.)

By R. Suggitt.

These charming little birds in some ways remind me of the Waxbills, particularly in their restless activity, and the motion of their tails, but, on the other hand they show none of the affection towards each other that the Waxbills do. With the sun shining on the blue-black body of the male, relieved by the pure white shoulder patch, he is, indeed, a beautiful little fellow The female is roughly a brown bird, streaked longitudinally on the breast with a darker shade of brown. Their tails appear to be loosly hinged, and this is particularly noticeable when the birds are flying, as the tail bobs up and down when they are taking their rather jerky flight. Habitat: Central and Southern America, to Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia.

There appears to be a great deal of variation in the plumage of males from different districts, and there is at at least one sub-species. The male of another pair from Trinidad in my possession has scarcely any white shoulder patches, these being represented by only a white tipped feather or two.

Both my birds have been in England a considerable time. The cock is one of a fairly large consignment on the market in the Spring of 1906. The hen was brought over by Mr. E. W. Harper for our esteemed Editor, who, having lost his male, very kindly presented her to me last summer. She has been in England at least three years, and until quite recently was probably the only hen in this country.

The Jacarinis did not take any particular interest in each other last Summer, and although the hen occasionally carried pieces of hay about, no nest was built. I took them indoors for the Winter, and the male, after his moult in addition to his usual out of colour plumage, in which the feathers of the back are tipped with brown, and those of the sides and lower part of the breast with greyish white, he acquired a pure white chin patch, which he still retains and which is probably a sign of old age.

I turned them both outside again in mid April, and did not take any particular notice of them until the middle of May. When I perceived that the cock was very excitable, and savagely drove every other bird from an isolated bush in the centre of the grassed portion of the aviary. It now occurred to me that they had been on more friendly terms for some time, and that I had noticed that they often both went in a sneaking sort of manner into the long grass at the bottom of the bush, but I thought their object was the grass seeds. However my suspicions were aroused on May 19th on seeing the hen stealthily descend into the grass and remain there for a considerable time. I went to investigate, and she flew off an artfully concealed nest, containing two eggs, at the foot of the bush. The eggs are large for the size of the bird—white, spotted and blotched with dull red, the markings being larger and more numerous near the large end, where they form an almost unbroken zone. As two eggs only were laid in this nest I was unable to determine the incubation period, but, as later events will show, incubation most have commenced on the morning of the discovery of the nest. For the first few days the hen was rather a nervous sitter, she afterwards sat more closely, only coming off to feed, when the cock would go to the nest to look after it until she returned. On one or two occasions when the grass had been flattened by heavy rain I saw the cock actually sitting on the eggs, while the hen was feeding. He certainly took no regular turn at incubation, but sat on the bush above the nest singing his peculiar little song of two notes, or fiercely driving any other birds from the vicinity. Owing to the positon of the nest I could not actually see whether the cock fed the hen while she was sitting, but I often saw him pay visits to her probably for that purpose. One of the eggs hatched on the morning of May 29th, and the other the next day. I had no live food to give them with the exception of mealworms, and these appeared to be too large for the nestlings' tiny throats. Both parents incessantly hunted insects, either hawking them in the air or searching among the grass, but probably only caught sufficient to barely keep the youngsters alive. On June 4th a bitter north wind set in; the little hen looked ill, and grew worse towards evening, when she probably abandoned the nest, as the young ones were cold the next morning; one was dead and although the other revived a little after being warmed, it did not live long. The nest was quite on the ground and was not woven round the grass stems. It was a tiny structure, very neat, open and cup-shaped, of medium depth and built of hay with a sparse lining of fine fibres or rootlets; inside diameter $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, outside $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the skins of the young ones were purplish black in colour. The hen recovered from her illness in a few days, and another nest was commenced on June 19th, both birds assisting, this time in a thick gooseberry bush (probably the reason this site was chosen was because the whole of the grass in the aviary had been flattened by rain). They had no sooner got the nest complete than a pair of Blackcap Warblers forcibly took possession of it, altering and enlarging it to suit their own requirements.

A third nest lined with horse-hair was built on the ground in a patch of very long grass in a corner of the aviary, and the first egg was laid on June 25th; the next morning the second egg was laid and incubation commenced. Both eggs hatched on July 6th, making the incubation period ten days. The hatching of these eggs was again the signal for a strong cold wind to blow accompanied by heavy rain and consequently flying insects were very scarce, however by dropping small mealworms, blow fly pupæ and a few spiders near the nest, the parents managed to keep the young ones alive. The old birds would have nothing to do with soft food; but I am almost certain regurgitated seed was given after the first few days. The young were strong and thriving when a week old, their shrill notes demanding food could be heard at quite a distance. and they were commencing to feather. They were fully feathered by July 16th, and on the morning of July 17th, had left the nest, their age being 11 days. Although fairly strong on the wing the youngsters did not leave the concealment of the long grass until they had been out of the nest three days, and I think this suggests that the nest is mostly built in such situations in a natural state. On the 28th, the young ones were perched on low branches, the cock took entire charge of one of them, the hen the other, and I never saw either parent feed the youngster attended to by the other. The one fed by the cock was much stronger than the other one and this may be possibly owing to the fact that he is the more expert insect catcher. More regurgitated seed was given now, but still a large quantity of live food was used up to a fortnight out of the nest. After August 8th, I neither saw nor heard the youngsters being fed and as I write (August 24th) they are very difficult to distinguish from their mother, apart from their youthful appearance. It would appear the clutch is complete with the second egg, indeed the tiny nest would not conveniently accommodate more. The young are exactly like the female parent, except that the breast streaks are perhaps not so clearly defined.

I belive the species has been successfully bred in Germany, but this is I think the first instance in the U.K.

Notes of Some Birds of the Andes in the Neighbourhood of Aconcagua.

By Philip Gosse, M. R. C. S.

The following notes were made during a stay of some eight months in the higher Andes, on the sides of Aconcagua. The first list of birds were all observed at the altitude of 8,000 feet and upwards.

I see no reason why any of these should not live and thrive quite well in our English climate.

The only birds I have left out are the two extremes, i.e. Condors and Humming Birds; as no lover of birds could, for obvious reasons wish to keep these in confinement.

CHIMANGO KITE: *(Milvargo chimango).*

These birds occur in the valleys up to 13,000 feet. They live on carrion chiefly, also on earth worms, but will kill young chickens, insects (beetles etc.), and eat vegetables. One I shot had a large toad in its bill.

I caught two alive, one in a rat-trap, baited with a dead mouse, the other I shot, breaking its wing and leg, another shot passing through its crop, but he soon recovered. Both became very tame and lived for some time in the London Zoological Gardens.

MAGELLAN'S OWL: *(Bubo magellanicus).*

One I shot at Punta-de-las-Vacias, 9,000 feet. Another I had alive for some months and was very tame.

COMMON MINOR: *(Geositta cunicularia).*

This and the two following are something like the Wheatear in habit and feeding, they build between big stones and in holes in walls.

ISABELLINE MINOR: *(G. isabellina).*

WHITE RUMPED MINOR: *(G. fasciata).*

BROWN CINCLODES: *(Cinclodes fuscus).*

This, the commoner of the two species, I found up to 12,000 feet.

In the winter when every other living thing has been driven away by the cold, these birds collect under the great natural bridge of Puente-del-Inca and spend the winter there. There are several hot springs here, which I think, account for their staying.

I found a horse-hair nest with three white eggs under a boulder close to the "bridge."

In habits they very closely resemble our common Dipper, the nest and eggs also having a striking resemblance.

WHITE-WINGED CINCLODES: *(C. bifasciatus).*

Very rare. Only found in one marsh in the Inca Valley. Much the same as above.

PATAGONIAN EARTH-CREEPER: *(Upucerthia dumetoria).*

I saw these birds as high as 11,000 feet up the Horcones

Valley. Solitary except in the breeding season. They often but not always build at the end of long tunnels that they dig out with their long curved bills; sometimes the tunnel is as much as 6 feet long. I never found more than three eggs in one nest. The eggs are pure white, smooth and rather varied in shape.

These would make particularly interesting pets in a big aviary with a sand mound in it.

RED-TAILED EARTH-CREEPER: *(U. ruficauda).*

During the summer I saw none of these birds lower than 10,000 feet.

They are very inquisitive and tame.

They have the habit of continually jerking the head and tail so that the latter comes within an inch of the former. It utters a cry like the squeak of a saw. The natives call this bird the "Carpenter."

TIT-LIKE SPINE-TAIL: *(Leptasthenura ægithaloides).*

This is a rare bird. It is very small and brown with a long spiked tail. They feed on insects and small buds.

SORDID SPINE-TAIL: *(Synallaxis sordida).*

Very similar to the above.

WHITE-CRESTED TYRANT: *(Elainea albiceps).*

Lives in the Adesmia Scrub (a sort of gorse-like plant) and feeds on the seeds.

I found a new parasitic worm, curled up next the heart, inside the pericardial sac in one of these birds, which has been named *Filaria elaineæ.*

WHITE-TAILED TYRANT: *(Agriornis maritima).*

These birds were seldom seen. A little like a 'Mocking-bird in flight: the latter quite noiseless. Lives on carrion and often to be seen chasing smaller birds. It has a curious note —sounding like "Kank-kank-kank-kank."

GOLDEN SISKIN: *(Melanomitris uropygialis).*

In habit very like the British Siskin. Lives in flocks among the Adesmia Scrubs, hopping about looking after seeds.

GAYS' FINCH: *(Phrygilus gayi).*

These brilliantly coloured birds are fairly common at Inca and up to 11,000 feet.

They lay fine speckled eggs in a nest some five feet off the ground. They would make most desirable additions to the aviary.

MOURNING FINCH: *(Phrygilus fruticeti).*

A quiet retiring bird. The female is of a dark brown colour whilst the male is absolutely black in places. For a long time I heard the song without seeing the bird. The song is a very sweet warble, some of the notes are almost harsh, and this contrasting pleasantly with the more harmonious notes, gives the song a peculiar fascination. These birds are fairly common. The adjective "mourning" is very appropriate, as the plumage in the male is mostly black and the song is extremely sad.

I do not know if any of our members have kept these birds, but they would make delightful pets.

PILEATED SONG-SPARROW: *(Zonotrichia pileata).*

These are the commonest birds both high up in the mountains and in the plains below.

They are quite like our common sparrow, but more elegant in shape, with a grey and black crest and a ruddy brown collar.

The native name is "Chingolo."

The nest is placed in the bushes and on the ground.

They have a sweet song which I have often heard on moonlight nights. I caught several "Chingolos" and brought them home to the Zoological Gardens. I have lately been sent one of these birds by Mr. Willford, which I was very glad to get and want very much to procure a hen bird as I have no doubt they would breed in captivity.*

BLACK-WINGED DOVE: *(Metriopelia melanoptera).*

These doves began to arrive at Inca in December (late spring) and soon became very common, fifty or more in a flock. Seen up to 12,000 feet.

They went away with the first cold weather.

I saw one flock of about five or six hundred birds.

They are very good eating, specially after weeks of living on tinned food.

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*This species has been bred in captivity by our esteemed member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker (*vide B. N., Vol. VII, p.* 24 and 29.) —ED.

To be continued.

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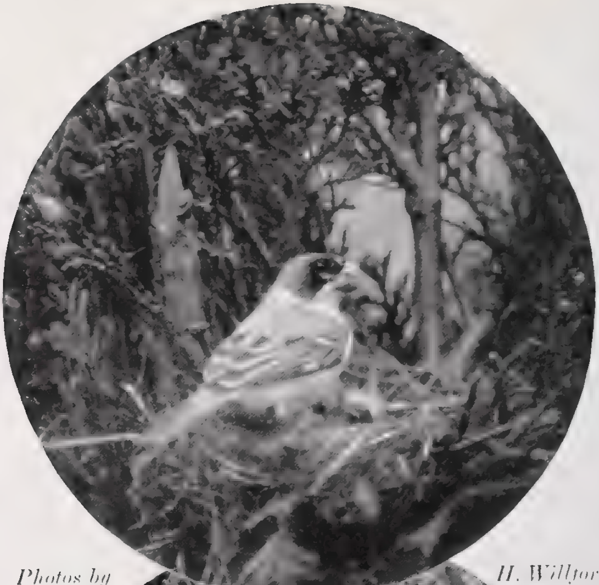

Photos by *H. Willford.*

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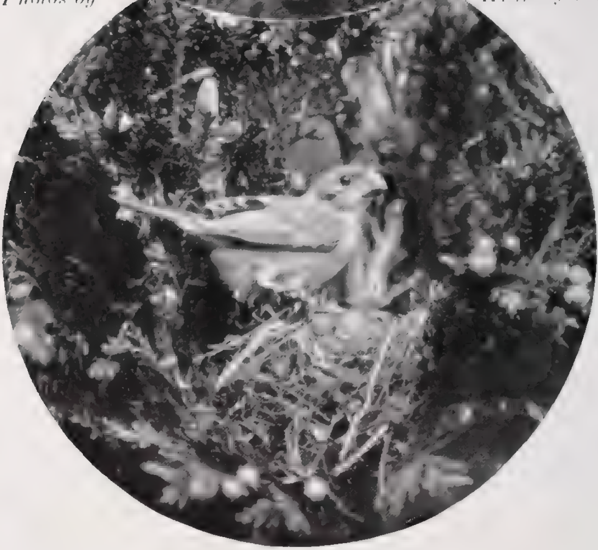


1.—Cock White-throated Finch feeding young.

2.—Hen White-throated Finch going on nest.

Bird Life Through the Camera.

By H. WILLFORD.

(Continued from page 202).

In this instalment of my "Bird Life thro' the Camera" I am dealing with aviary birds and am able to give a few breeding notes and photos of:—

Passerine Doves, Painted Finch, White-throated Finch and Green Cardinal.

PASSERINE DOVE *(Champælia passerina)*. The birds came to me looking very knocked about after their voyage from the West Indies, and for some time were kept in a warm birdroom, but, owing to their wildness did not improve much until they were turned out of doors into a large aviary with plenty of cover.

Towards the end of June 1909, they showed signs of going to nest; the cock who was much more rufous on the neck than the hen, courted his mate in the typical manner, viz., by running a few steps and then bowing to his lady. After a few days of courtship both birds began building, choosing an empty travelling cage, with the front out, which had been left, by accident, standing on a large flower-pot; the nest was constructed entirely of hay.

On July 1st and 2nd the hen laid her clutch of two eggs, closely resembling those of the Diamond Dove, excepting that they are a little larger and more oval; their colour being creamy-white. Both birds shared the duties of incubation and on July 15th two chicks were hatched out, being covered with ochreish down; on the following morning they were thrown out of the nest, but the death of their young did not seem to trouble them at all, for on August 7th, two more young were hatched out and again were promptly thrown out of the nest.

After a short spell they took to a half coco-nut shell, which they lined with hay and on August 22nd and 23rd two more eggs were laid and duly hatched out on September 4th. This time the young were assiduously fed (chiefly on spray and white millet) until on the afternoon of September 17th both the young left the nest.

The nestling plumage was a dull brown, they did not attain the adult plumage for some time.

It appears to me that these little doves would be very difficult to breed in close quarters as they are very wild and require plenty of cover.

This completed their nesting operations for 1909. This season they made use of their old nest and three pairs of young have been fully reared, and they are again incubating another clutch of eggs.

When disturbed or scared the sitting bird flies off the nest and runs along the ground with wings outspread, as if resenting the intrusion on their home life.

PAINTED FINCHES *(Emblema picta).* The breeding of Painted Finches, which like the Passerines I believe is the first time for Great Britain, marks a red-letter day in the annals of my bird keeping, and serves as some little compensation for the many disappointments I have had with this particular species.

From Wallace's importation of this year, five pairs found their way into my aviaries, which together with the pair I already possessed made six in all, and fortunately all twelve birds survived the six or eight weeks of cage life, to be eventually turned out of doors, each pair in a separate aviary, but with other birds.

The first pair laid and hatched but the two young were thrown out of the nest, probably by other inmates of the aviary.

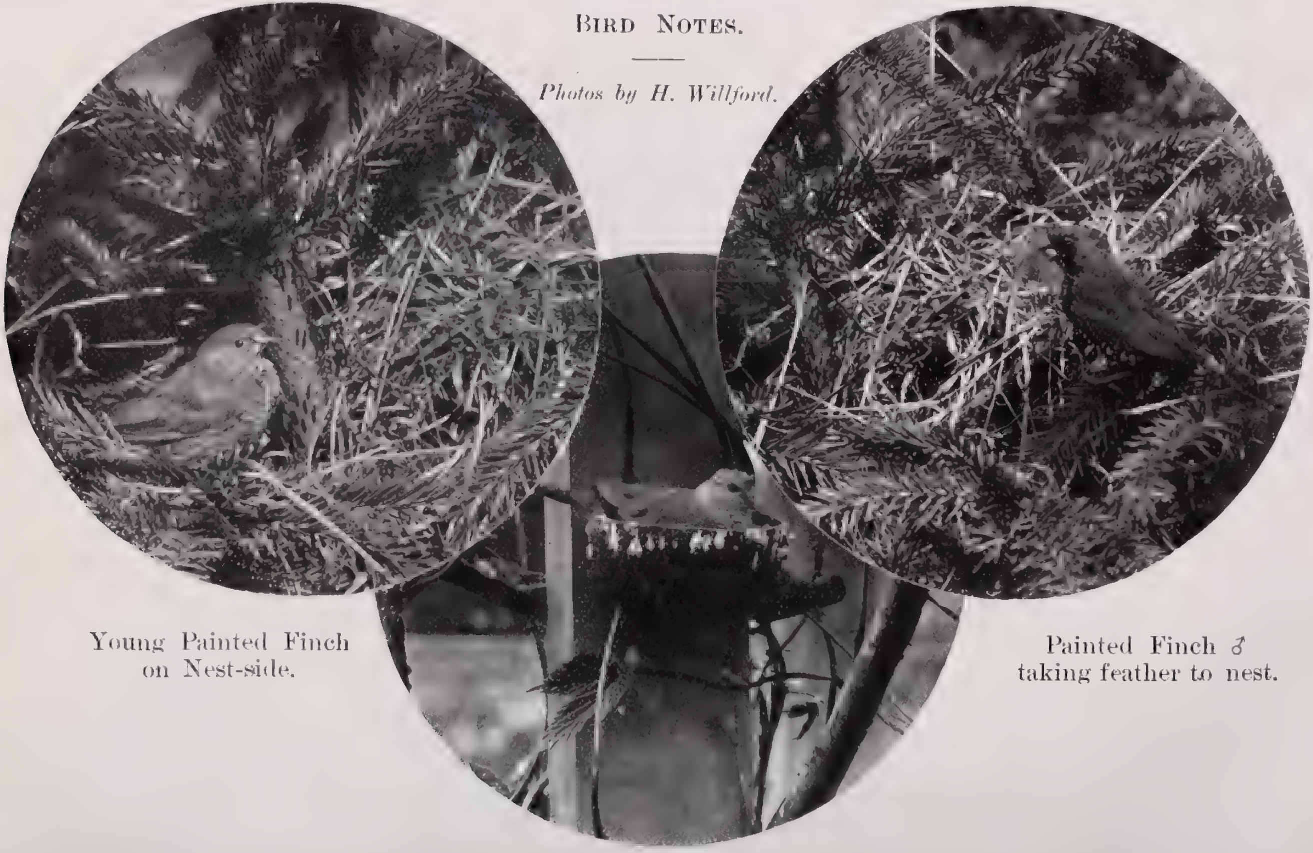
This nest was built in a rush basket and the only materials used were a few roots and bits of earth, mostly carried by the cock.

The second time this pair nested was in a shrub, out in the open, when a very bulky nest was built of hay and small bits of earth, covered again with hay, no doubt with a view to making it more secure.

Here again failure dogged their footsteps, the eggs being eaten.

The second pair to go to nest were in a larger aviary with pairs of Rufous-throated Tanagers and Cuba Finches; they chose a coco-nut husk in which four eggs were laid, the only lining to the nest being a few feathers. The exact date the eggs were laid is not known, as when discovered the eggs had been incubated, and two were hatched out six days later, on May 26th, the other two eggs were infertile.

Photos by H. Willford.



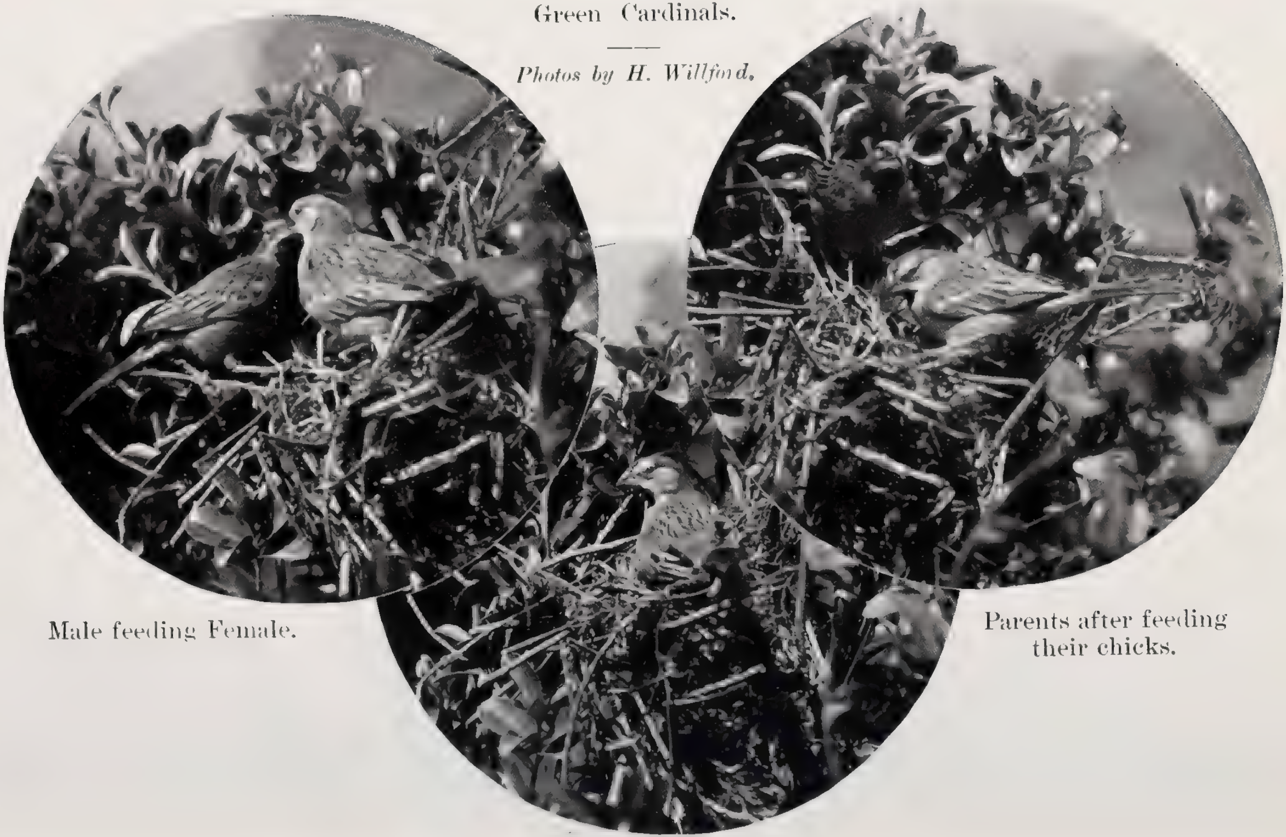
Young Painted Finch
on Nest-side.

Painted Finch ♂
taking feather to nest.

Passerine Dove on Nest.

Green Cardinals.

Photos by H. Willford.



Male feeding Female.

Parents after feeding their chicks.

Hen Brooding two chicks.

Both parents fed well, chiefly with spray millet, but they were also noticed picking over the soft food put in for the Tanagers.

On June 11th a great disaster befell the family, for on looking into the nest I found the hen bird dead, but the two young were quite fit, and had been fed quite recently, their crops being full of seed.

The dead hen was removed and the youngsters left to the care of their father, and a good attentive little chap he proved, for on the 16th both young had left the nest and were strong on the wing.

All went well until the 23rd when after a heavy rain one of the youngsters was found dead, although apparently well nourished and healthy, so the remaining bird was removed with its parent to a cage, where it soon started to pick up for itself, and is now entirely independent of its parent.

The nest when built in a tree is domed and very bulky (see photo). The eggs are white and generally four or five in number.

The nestling plumage is: Beak blackish; head chestnut brown; breast slightly speckled with white; abdomen rusty-black; back brown, tipped with red; upper tail-coverts red; tail feathers black, tipped with brown; wings brown.

WHITE-THROATED FINCH *(Spermophila albigularis)*. This handsome and attractive species has succeeded in rearing two young this season, and although they have been with me for three years this is their first attempt at nesting.

They built a small cup-shaped nest, laying two eggs, mottled with dark-brown, but both were destroyed by the other birds.

Their second nest was built in a more secure position and again two eggs were laid and both were duly hatched out; the chicks were well covered with down and were fed by both parents from the crop on seed—the hen alone incubated. The young in nestling plumage resembled their female parent.

GREEN CARDINALS *(Gubernatrix cristata)*. This species has been very prolific with me this season and I give photos of their first nest, one of which shows the cock in the act of feeding his mate.

A young hen which was reared in the aviary last year built a nest and laid four eggs, but as she had no mate the eggs were taken away from her.

To be continued.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. HOPKINSON, D. S. O., M. A., M. D.

(continued from page 217.*)*

MUSOPHAGIDÆ.

Turacus persa. SENEGAL TURACO.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Congo. *(H.L.)*

T. buffoni. BUFFON'S TURACO.

Range. West Africa, Congo to Senegal. *(H.L.)*

T. macrorhynchus. GREAT-BILLED TURACO.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Gaboon. *(H.L.)*

These three species of Green Turaco should all (from the ranges given above) be found in Gambia, but although I may have seen all three without recognising them, the only two specimens I have ever handled were certainly *T. buffoni.* Every detail of their general plumage and the arrangement of the facial marks exactly agreed with the following description, which is taken from the British Museum Catalogue.

T. buffoni. Head (which is crested) and neck grass-green; back, wings and tail glossy violet; quills with the exception of the outer one bright crimson, with edges and shafts black; bare ocular patch scarlet with a band of white feathers in front of the eye but not below it, where a strongly marked band of black crosses the face with perhaps a few white feathers at its lower edge; throat and centre of chest grass-green like the neck, rest of body and under tail-coverts violet shaded with black; under surface of quills like the upper surface; under wing-coverts dark brown partially washed with green. Bill deep olive inclining to yellow at edges; (in one of my specimens the olive was washed with dull crimson). Iris hazel; legs black. Length 16 inches. Sexes alike.

T. persa closely resembles *T. buffoni,* the only difference being that in this species the *white* eyeband is more marked and extends from the pre-ocular region to form a white band *below* the eye as well, where a badly defined narrow black streak partly divides the white into two parts.

T. macrorhynchus is a rather larger bird (17.5 inches), the general colour is green with mantle and back violet; quills crimson and black. The head and crest are green mottled, each feather being tipped with black and having a sub-terminal white bar. Bill yellow partially shaded with orange; legs black; iris brown.

The Green Turacoes are not at all common in the Gambia and are only found in the more thickly wooded parts of the country, such as Fogni and the adjoining portions of Kombo. Their chief characteristic (which they share with the next *genus*, *Musophaga*) is the fact that the colour of the crimson wing-patches is due to the presence of a peculiar pigment Turacin), which is partially soluble in water, so that after severe rain the colouring matter may be more or less washed out and the patch look a dirty yellow, the colour returning again in a short time when the bird dries.

Musophaga violacea. VIOLET TURACO.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Cameroons. *(H.L.)*

Commonly known here as the Blue Kowkow, while the name Green Kowkow is applied to birds of the preceding genus, and Grey Kowkow to *Schizorhis*, the "Woodcock" of the Bathurst boys. The word "Kowkow" is the Mandingo name for the last-named and is derived from its note. In the same language the Violet Turaco is called either Kowkow wulima (Red Kowkow), or Kowkow mansa (King of the Kowkows).

The Blue Turaco is much commoner than the green, especially in the upper part of the Protectorate, where it haunts the thicket growth along the river banks, showing a marked partiality for dense palm-jungle. in such situations they are almost always to be found, in pairs or small family parties, flying from tree to tree with a peculiar slow and characteristic flight and calling to each other with rather croaky cries.

Description. Above metallic violet-blue with a darker tail, crown which has only the merest suggestion of a crest, and hind-neck covered with short hairy crimson feathers; throat violet; chest, glossy greenish blue; belly and under surface of tail dead black; wings violet, like the back, with a brilliant crimson alar patch and black tips to the quill-feathers. Circum-ocular region bright scarlet with a line of white feathers from below the eye to the ear. Bill, in the flesh, brilliant scarlet; the upper mandible prolonged backwards and flattened at its base to form a frontal plate, bright yellow in colour. After death the red of the beak soon fades and turns yellow, becoming the same colour as the frontal plate. Legs black. Iris burnt-sienna brown. Length 16 inches.

Corythæola cristata. GIANT TURACO.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Angola; Equatorial Africa. *(H.L.)*

This bird I have never seen here. It is much larger than than the preceding species, (25 inches) and has no red wing-patch. Its general colour above is verditer blue passing into black on the crest and nape; chest pale green, abdomen and rest of under surface rufous brown.

Schizorhis africana. VARIEGATED TURACO.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Congo. *(H.L.)*

This species is extremely common in Gambia and differs from its relations in being a plainly coloured bird, though in general shape and actions it resembles them.

The crown is brown, the nape feathers elongated to form a crest, the feathers of which are narrowly bordered with white; the upper parts are brownish grey, streaked with darker; quills black with a concealed white wing-patch. The tail has the two central feathers brown at the bases and black towards the ends, the others entirely black barred with brown; the under surfaces of all are black. Throat reddish brown, remainder of under parts dirty white streaked with brown; under surface of wings black with a central white patch. Iris brown; beak yellow, legs dark brown. Length 17 inches.

The "Kowkow" is one of the birds which one sees practically every day in any part of the Protectorate. They spend most of their time and get most of their food (wild fruits and berries as well as insects) among the upper branches of the trees. They go about in pairs and appear to remain mated all through the year and I think keep to the same nest, (a flat structure of sticks in a tall tree) from year to year, merely adding to and repairing it when necessary. About May, when the breeding season is imminent, the courtship of a pair is a frequent evening sight. The two are perched on the highest branch of some bare tree preening and fondling one another; suddenly the cock takes a short flight upwards and hovers—looking when in the air exactly like one of those Chinese bird-kites over his mate, who sits entranced with outspread wings and tail gazing up at him, till he suddenly closes his wings and drops on to the branch beside her to continue his caresses, and then after a short interval to repeat the performance, hovering over her and returning again and again till the sudden darkness of the Tropics comes on, or any disturbing element occurs.

As additions to the pot they are regarded quite highly by the natives, and indeed, in default of anything better, are by no means unpalatable, though their flesh is rather dry and uninteresting, and only suitable for soups or stews.

In March this year a slightly-winged "Kowkow" was given to me, which I brought home on my return and which is now in the Zoo.

To be continued.

A Holiday in the West Indies.

By A. Sutcliffe.

(Continued from page 214.)

Since penning the last instalment, I regret to say I have lost the cock Blue Tanager; he commenced to fail almost immediately the young birds died, and this probably was the cause of their death.

After leaving Georgetown by the Inter-colonial steamer, we next called at Grenada, a most charming little Island, situated north of Trinidad, with a fine natural harbour, all surrounded with mountains, which are clad with Cocoa Trees, this and Sugar Cane being the chief industries and employment in the Island. On landing I sent my small collection up to the Home Hotel, and "fell on my feet" immediately, as the manageress turned out to be a lover of birds, and she was very kind in helping me to feed and clean my birds out every morning. Here we soon made friends, through the introduction of my friend's agent Mr. Slinger, which latter gentleman introduced me to Mr. De Fretas, now our esteemed member; I met him when paying a visit to his Sugarcane Estate. He soon found out that I was a lover of birds, and he kindly showed me his various and many pets, which were all most beautifully kept, a whole farmstead being practically devoted to nothing else but his hobbies, which consist of: a herd of Horned Sheep, prize Chickens, Ducks, Pheasants, Guinea Fowl, Pigeons, Deer, and other delightful creatures, all well housed and cared for. A striking feature of the farm, was the fine Bullocks employed in the Cane fields, huge fellows, with horns five or six feet across, and as sharp pointed as a lance. Mr. De Freitas very kindly asked my friend and self to lunch with him, and afterwards we talked about birds and chose a site for an aviary in his garden.

The Birds I noticed chiefly in this Island were large black Starlings,* with a fine bold glassy eye, these seemed to hang about the stables and farm yards feeding on grain, going into the manger whilst the horse was feeding. The Rice Sparrow is also very common, a bird about the same size and shape of our sparrow, but blue with a red throat patch and ear coverts; the hen is nut brown, with the red markings less defined. Another bird I noticed, was the Pipperie, a small bird not unlike a hen Blackcap, but a trifle larger; this bird is the terror of the "John Crow" which inhabits most of the

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**Quiscalus luminosus.*

Islands in the West Indies, it chases it on every occasion driving its little sharp beak into the lower ventral organ, and so persecuting the "John Crow," that he will go anywhere to shake off his pursuer.

I caught three of the Starlings, by making a noose of cotton, and placing some corn on the ground, and when the birds stepped into the noose I pulled and so managed to secure two hens and a cock.

The bathing at this Island was very fine, and one can see the sponges growing on the bottom. The niggers dive for these with a knive in their mouth, they cut the sponge off close by the rock, and then stick the knife in the top of the sponge in order to bring it to the surface, the knife being far too sharp to touch with the bare hand. I think if our readers notice they will find that nearly every sponge they purchase has a cut in the top, and this is the reason; the sponge is then buried in the sand to kill it, before curing.

We now sailed for the Island of Trinidad, the avifauna of which is a very varied one, some of the most beautiful birds are found in this Island. I spent some enjoyable days watching them feeding, quarrelling and singing. The task of describing more than a very small percentage of them is quite beyond me. I may say in passing that the true Thrushes, Ant Thrushes, American Warblers, Grackles, Tyrants, Cotingas, Humming Birds, Mocking Birds, Kingfishers, Motmots, Trogons, Woodpeckers, Toucans, Jacamars, and many other desirable birds are found in great variety. I was primarily interested in those I intended to try to take home alive, such as Finches, Tanagers, Sugar Birds and the like. Except at Jamaica and Grenada where any open attempt to catch or buy birds was a very risky business, we did not make a sufficiently long halt to admit of my attempting trapping expeditions, and before I made any attempt here, I spent some time looking for the most likely places, and noting where birds were feeding, and I can now quite understand why particular birds reach us in such quantities, for instance the Violet Euphonia is fond of berries, which grow on low bushes, and is in consequence easily limed. The Blue and Palm Tanagers can be seen in large numbers running woodpecker-like on the trunks of large trees covered with lichen or "old man's beard," which grows like seaweed on the trunks; they are catching the tree ants, large red ants which make their nests in trees, and pass up and down the trunks in regular paths about an inch wide, the Blue and Palm Tanagers pass up and down also catching these insects. The Black Tanager is very common all over the Island. I caught a hen in a very peculiar way. While watching some Manakins feeding on green berries about the size of hazel nuts, growing on quite a large tree; I noticed a hen Black Tanager, fly straight at a fruit similar in shape to and about the size of a William pear, the skin of which is tough, and the inside very acid, she evidently used too much force, for her bill and forepart of her head was imbedded in the fruit; in a very few seconds when I saw the fix she was in I had secured both her and the fruit, and after removing the fruit I was surprised to find the feathers at the base of the beak were still adhering to the fruit. I made a note of the name of this nice-looking, but, bitter fruit and regret having mislaid it. This particular bird is now in my aviary. What is really required for catching birds here is a purse net; if one of these nets say 15 feet square on poles, and guy ropes were fixed quite near one of the trees or berry bushes on which I have seen upwards of one hundred Tanagers, Manakins, etc., feeding, all that would be required would be to fire a gun or even throw a stick or other missile at the tree on the other side, and I have no hesitation in saying that they could be so caught unhurt by the score; as it is they are limed, the trees are very thick, and the branches being very close, the natives can easily climb the trees, and lime them, their captures are either put in a bag, and hung round their necks, or in their pockets. I watched one nigger catch five Desmarest's Tanagers *(Calliste desmaresti)*. Two of them were crushed to death, one had a broken wing, and another had a broken leg, either with rough handling when removing the lime or being crushed when descending the tree. The other appeared to be all right but was dead the next morning. The Desmarest is a very handsome species, being of a beautiful grass green, with wings and nape washed with golden-green; the head is rich rufous-chestnut: inner webs of wing primaries, and quills, and also the tail feathers, excepting the two outer ones, bronzy-brown; bill horn-colour; legs and feet blackish. This species is known to British aviculture, Mr. A. Pam presenting living specimens to the London Zoo in February 1908 *(vide "Bird Notes," Vol. VII. p. 23).*

I had one day at liming with a gentleman resident in Trinidad. We made a few captures, one of which was a very beautiful Tanager, the Yellow-bellied (*Calliste flaviventris*). I used too much of the native lime and spoiled the plumage of some of my captures removing it; this particular bird was minus the primaries of one wing and two-thirds of its tail (the adhesive quality of this lime is no doubt responsible for so many Tanagers arriving in this country so thinly clad); his feathers have since grown and he is a very fine bird, and probably the only one in this country at the present time

[I am of the opinion that this bird is the sub-species *vieilloti* as this is common to Trinidad. Dr. P. L. Sclater, comments as follows in the " B.M.C. Vol. XI.":—

> " In former writings I have kept a form of this species distinct " as *C. vieilloti*; but the difference (consisting merely in the " deeper tinge of the yellow-belly) is so slight that I have now " united the two forms as sub species."

There are really three species and one sub-species very nearly alike, which possibly I had better quote.

Braziliensis—belly white.

Flaviventris—belly pale yellow, bend of wing thalassine blue; sub-species *vieilloti*—belly deeper yellow, bend of wing bright blue.

Boliviana—belly pale yellow, bend of wing bright blue.

Our esteemed member Mr. E. W. Harper presented a specimen—said to be *C. flaviventris*—to the London Zoo in July 1906. If correctly defined this was the first specimen of this species to reach this country alive, but I made it out to be *C. brasiliensis*, for the belly was white during the whole of its life at the Zoo—however, it still remains on the Zoo list as *C. flaviventris*.

The Yellow-bellied Tanager *(C. flaviventris)* is a beautiful species indeed—the upper surface is black, with the forehead, front of cap, sides of head, margins of larger wing-coverts and rump bright blue; smaller upper wing-coverts shining turquoise-blue; under surface of body bright blue, varied with black on the throat and sides of body; middle of abdomen and ventral region pale sulphur-yellow; bill black; legs and feet dark brownish-black– *vieilloti* only differs in having the middle of abdomen a deeper shade of yellow.—Ed.]

I caught amongst others two Manakins *(Chiromachaeris manacus)* which are locally called the Washerwoman; one died before I sailed, and the other on the way home; they belong to the family *Pipridæ*, and live on fruit and insects.

The Black and White Manakin is a very handsome species, the plumage being silken and glossy. Forehead, top of head, nape, and tail black; the wings and tail being more or less variegated with bronzy-brown; rump dark grey; under surface and neck silky-white; sides of body and ventral region greyish-white; bill black; legs and feet orange.

M. B. and C. W. Beebe in "Our Search for a Wilderness" make the following note concerning the White-breasted Manakin:—

"the White-breasted *(Manacus manacus manacus Linn.)*, is black "and white, and the four outer feathers of the wing are very "narrow and curved. These are the strings upon which he plays "an Æolian song of love, for every time he takes to flight a loud "humming sound is produced. The females are dull olive in colour ". . . Sometimes three suitors would buzz and hum together "about one of these sombre little ladies in the gloom of the gorge."

From the "Cambridge Natural History" (Birds) I quote the following:—

"*Chiromachaeris* makes a sound like a whip cracking, followed " by a continuous rattle—possibly caused by the wings; but that "noise was peculiar to the genus, the usual cry being loud and "whistling. Fruits of all sorts, especially berries and seeds, and "occasionally insects, form the food. *Chiromacheris manacus* and "*Chiroxiphia caudata* hang loose, shallow nests of grass - the "latter with slight additions of wool, hair, tendrils and leaves— "from the forks of low shrubs; the two eggs being reddish--or "yellowish-white, thickly blotched with red or brown."

Newton in his dictionary of birds says:—

"Manakin from the Dutch word Manaken applied to certain "small birds, a name apparently introduced into English by "Edwards (Nat. His. Birds, p. 21) in or about 1743, since which "time it has been accepted generally, and is now used for those "which from the family Pipridea of modern ornithologists, the "Manakins are peculiar to Neotropical Regions, and are said "to have many habits of the Pipridea (Titmouse), living, says "Swainson, in deep forests associating in small bands, and keeping "continuously in motion, but, feeding almost wholly on the large "soft berries of the different kinds of *Melosdoma*. However, "as with most other South American passerine birds, little is "really known of their mode of life and it is certain that the "pipridae have no other affinity to piridae, but belong to the "other great division of the Order Passeres to which Garrod "assigned the name *Mesomyode*. The Manakins are nearly all "birds of gay appearance, generally exhibiting rich tints of blue, "crimson, scarlet, orange, or yellow in combination with chestnut, "deep black, black and white, or olive green, and among the "most obvious characteristics are their short bill and feeble feet, "of which the outer toe is united to the middle toe for a good "part of its length."

To be continued.

The Breeding of Stanley Parrakeets & other Notes.

By J. Smith (Kendal).

Stanley Parrakeets *(Platycercus icterotis)*. It is with much pleasure that I am at last able to record a success with this beautiful species after many disappointments. Two very strong young birds have now left the nest and are quite strong on the wing and quite able to fend for themselves. They have been out of the nest for three weeks and though I cannot exactly say when they were hatched I believe them to be about eight weeks old. They are almost as large as their parents, fully feathered with fine long tails, and are a very fine and vigorous pair of young birds.

In plumage both young birds are very similar, being dark green on the back; breast red, variegated with slate-colour; in other respects they resemble their female parent. I have no doubt but what they are a true pair as one of them is much more red than the other and the contour of its head is similar to that of the male parent, while the other young bird in this respect resembles its mother.

I may say that while the young were in the nest they were fed entirely by the hen, but as soon as they were in the open the cock was most assiduous in attending to the wants of his family.

I supplied them with canary, white millet, and hemp seed (they are very fond of hemp seed), also oats, dandelion leaves, ripe fruit, such as grapes, strawberries, raspberries, etc., and a little biscuit and stale bread, but they did not seem to care for the latter much and take but little of it.

SAFFRON FINCHES *(Sycalis flaveola)*: I have also got a brood of young Saffrons which have left the nest and are doing well. In the same aviary, which is of a fair size, I have pairs each of White Java Sparrows, Yellow Budgerigars, Grey-headed Love birds, Cut-throats, and Zebra Finches, none of which have reared any young; though any amount of nest construction has been going on the whole season.

GENERAL NOTES: I much fear I have a very bad tempered crew, for I was obliged to remove the Black-faced Love birds, while the Stanleys were incubating or the cock Stanley would have killed them*. The male Cockateel also had to be removed for he chased and bullied the Stanley to such an extent that he had no chance to feed the sitting hen.

My Rosellas to my great disappointment have not nested, though they cleaned out a log, then the hen turned nasty and would not let the cock come near her. Last year two eggs were laid, but deserted after being incubated for fourteen days. Possibly they had too much company, and so as to leave the Stanleys to nest in peace I had to turn the Many-colours and Cockateels into their enclosure.

In spite of the lack of breeding success with the species named they all are in splendid health and their plumage is beautifully tight and silken. I must hope for greater success next season.

Rearing of a Hybrid Red-crested x Green Cardinal.

(Paroaria cucullata x Gubernatrix cristata).

By ANDREW WALKER, M. A., B. Sc., M. D.

I see in "Bird Notes", July 9th, a note to the effect that a cross between Red-crested Cardinal and Green Cardinal has been produced this summer for the first time. As a matter of fact that happened in my aviaries a year ago and I still have the bird. Mr. Millsum and Mr. Teschemaker both were aware of this, but I deferred writing an account of the bird, as I hoped that after the moult this year the record would then be more complete, and its scientific interest was all that concerned me. Briefly the history was this. I had a male Red-crested and a female Green which had each lost their mate during the winter, and which were in an aviary with a lot of odd birds- Rosy Pastor, two Hangnests, a Scarlet and a Brown Tanager, etc. One day seeing the Red-crested Cardinal picking up a few twigs and more with the idea of giving them something to do than with any thought of breeding, I hung up the basket hilt of a single stick in the aviary and threw in a handful of twigs and hay. Straightway a nest was constructed and one egg laid. Having some visitors at the time I paid no more heed to them other than to ask my man if there were any more eggs, and as there were none, and the female never seemed to be on the nest I concluded the birds were entirely satisfied with what they had already accomplished. At the end of a fortnight I asked my man to fetch the egg for preservation but he found the egg chipped and a live bird ready to escape from it. For the first few days I placed a few small caterpillars in a box beside the nest. This was followed by live ants' eggs and fresh wasp grubs. The latter were eagerly taken by the parent birds and the young one was reared on them till it left the nest, after which it had the run of the aviary foods though it seemed still to prefer wasp grubs and soft mealworms. It grew to be larger and seemingly more powerful than either parent, but from the artistic standpoint its plumage during the first year has been disappointing there being scarce a vestige of the colour of either parent. During winter I made a careful note of the plumage which is as follows:—

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*Quite normal while nesting.—ED.

Forehead and front of chest black, each feather tipped and edged brownish red.

Sides of Crest
Hinder part of Crest } rusty brown, tinged greenish in some lights.
Hind head

Supra-orbital—broad reddish streak.

Sides of Head
Back of Head } russet brown.

Sides of neck behind the ear coverts shaded olive green.

From lower angle of mouth extending backwards and downwards a whitish patch spotted with black.

Chin, neck, and upper breast,—reddish brown.

Lower chest and abdomen—greyish tinged with pale brown, the feathers having central dark streaks.

Sides of body—fawn becoming dark grey posteriorly.

Under tail coverts—dirty white faintly tinged fawn.

Back—greyish brown.

Wing coverts and flights—dark brown to black, edged lighter brown or fawn.

Tail—brownish black.

Thighs—greyish white.

Legs and feet—grey blue.

Iris—brown.

When I left home it seemed to have commenced moulting. The egg was large for the size of bird and was spotted and coloured similarly to that of the Chaffinch.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in Cage and Aviary.—Cassell and Co., in monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part VI.—A more than usually interesting part; the chapter on "Hatching and Rearing" is completed and a chapter on "The Canary's Plumage and moulting" is commenced. The half-tone and text illustrations are excellent and practical, and among many others we may mention Breeding Cages, Flight Cages, Utensils, Birdrooms, and full page plates of Sparrows and Lizard Canaries. The frontispiece is a coloured plate of Lancashire Canaries, figuring the Buff Plainhead and Yellow Coppy varieties.

*[We regret having to hold over several reviews till next issue.—*Ed.*]*

Editorial.

The Magazine.—We would draw the special attention of all to the letter signed E. B. H. in Correspondence columns, referring to Magazine articles. While perhaps the statements are a little too sweeping, yet the fact remains that the writer raises an important issue, specially so in a Society like the F. B. C., which month by month is receiving a steady accession to its numbers, the majority of whom are not established aviculturists, but are comparatively recent adherents to the fascinating hobby of Foreign Bird Keeping. We would respectfully urge that the following details be given as fully as possible in all contributions to our pages:—

Whether kept in cage or aviary, and if the latter, whether it contains living shrubs, trees, etc.

Diet and treatment under normal conditions, and if a breeding record the food the young were reared on.

All breeding records should seek to give the following details—Colour of eggs (this can often be obtained by watching for the ejected shells after incubation is complete) and number of clutch.

Period of incubation.

Methods of feeding the young, with their dietary.

Age at which the fledgelings leave the nest.

Nestling plumage—Age and manner by which adult plumage is attained.

We should also esteem it highly if contributors residing abroad who kindly supply us with "Field Notes" of the birds of their locality, would give the diet of the species they describe in their native haunts, and also the diet they have found successful with any of the species which they have kept in captivity.

We are fully aware that many contributors fear repeating themselves—we think this fear may well be dismissed, and the fact admitted *that articles cannot be too comprehensive.*

Our member E. B. H. is evidently bringing forward felt need, and we are assured that if our contributors will only keep the above facts before them when penning their articles the scientific value of our records will be materially increased, and, also the mutual help rendered will be greatly enhanced.

We claim B. N. to be a LIVE JOURNAL, and for this to be maintained, each issue must be equally interesting and *useful* to the beginner as to the advanced aviculturist; and for this to be the case *we feel that each article should be sufficiently comprehensive to enable beginners* to *procure the species, and if hitherto unknown to them find sufficient data to successfully keep it.*

At the same time we claim that "Bird Notes" does teem with comprehensive articles, but there is a danger that writers may consider, what are called elementary details to be unnecessary—this is certainly a mistake.

We would draw attention to two articles of general interest.

Vols. III and IV. The Food of Birds in Captivity. By H. R. Fillmer, the Founder of the Club.

Vol. VI. Feeding and Acclimatising Foreign Birds. By W. T. Page.

These volumes are in stock and can be obtained from the publisher by those who have joined the club since their issue. Further a set of "Bird Notes" may be well considered a *Vade mecum* on all phases of Bird Keeping and Breeding.

Green foods.—There seems a need for a few notes upon this subject, at least they are asked for. Among our members there will I expect be much difference of opinion. We incline to the opinion that it is wholesome all the year round when it can be procured fresh, but it should never be given when tainted with frost or sodden with wet. As to what to give—in the summer the range is a very wide one, but seeding or flowering grass stands foremost for most foreigners and is very largely appreciated by many indigenous species too; all the following may be given, though I have not found Shepherd's Purse to be much appreciated by foreign species:—chickweed, groundsel, dandelion (leaves and flowers), plantain, teazel-head, thistle-heads, lettuce and almost any non-poisonous garden and hedge-row weeds. During the winter months the mainstay will be tender lettuce, commonly know as French lettuce, this is tender and succulent and much appreciated by most species of birds, and canary, rape and millet seed sown in pots or pans and supplied to the birds when two or three inches high. A little ripe fruit is appreciated by nearly all species of birds throughout the year.

Red-whiskered Bulbuls, etc.—Our esteemed member Dr. M. Amsler has been successful in rearing a brood of this species, really an uncommon event, for they were only bred for the first time in this country last year by our esteemed member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker.

Dr. Amsler has also had reared in his aviaries broods of Siberian Bullfinches, Pelzeln's Saffron Finches, Chinese

Quails, Common Avadavats, and three broods of Parrot Finches, and Gold-breasted Waxbills are incubating. He kindly promises us an account of these successes for a later issue.

To Contributors — We regret—even with a heavy issue that we have had to divide several articles and hold over interesting Correspondence, Book Reviews, etc., till next issue.

Potato Disease.—The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries desire to remind growers of potatoes that it is their duty under the Destructive Insects and Pests Order of 1910 to report to the Board all outbreaks of Wart Disease, otherwise known as Black Scab of potatoes, Cauliflower Disease, "Fungus," etc., in counties in which no officer has as yet been appointed by the Local Authority to receive reports. The penalty for neglecting to report disease is £10.

The presence of disease should be again reported this year notwithstanding the fact that it may have existed and been reported last year.

A leaflet describing the disease may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 4, Whitehall Place. Letters so addressed need not be stamped.

(Continued in inset).

BRITISH BIRDS.

The Rearing of Blue Tits for Beginners.

We much regret that in this article by Mrs. E. Warren Vernon, two paragraphs towards the end got mixed together by the printers when making up into pages, thus making this portion very disconnected (*vide pp.* 203—4) we reprint the two paragraphs as a correction.—Ed.

Two days after, while the cage was being cleaned, they both slipped out through a tiny hole in the bottom, and though I tried for a long time, it was impossible to re-capture the little imps. As the babies were much younger than the first lot, and wanted feeding oftener, I thought I would try an experiment, so I took them upstairs and put them into the nest with the six older birds. It was a squash, but, tho' it is very surprising, the fact remains, that dear Maria fed the twelve birds right away, and has gone on doing so ever since, and they begin to come out of their nest now.

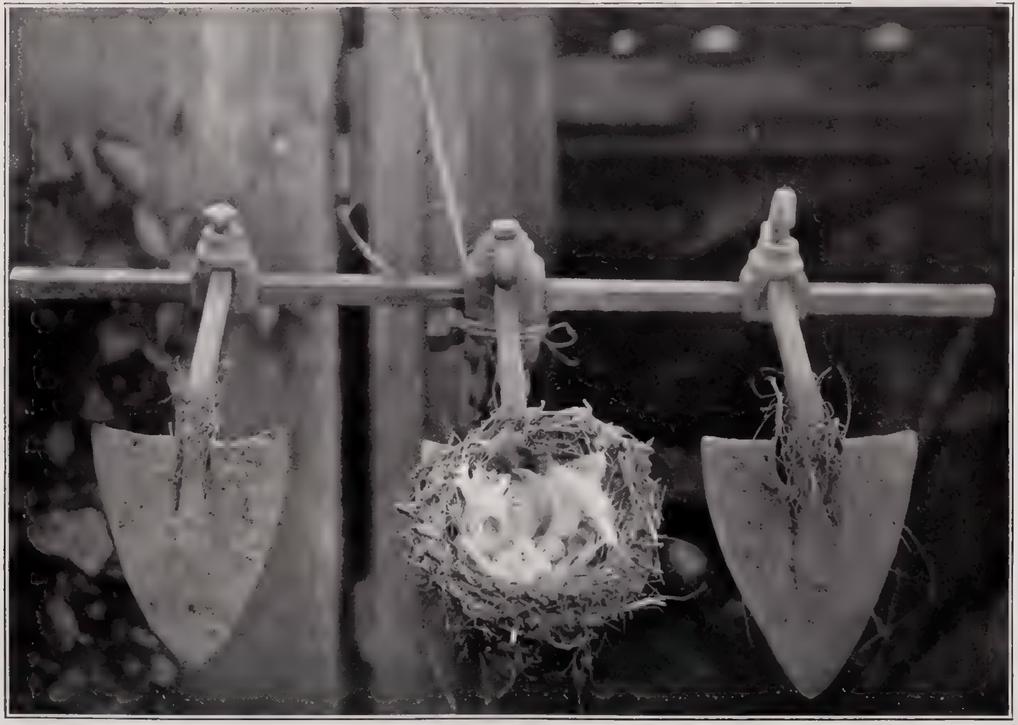
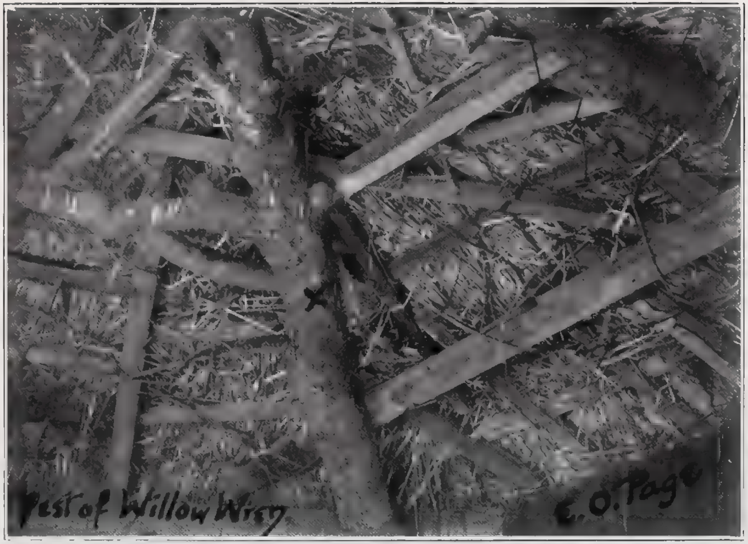


Photo by S. Jepson.

Swallow's Nest on a Jack Hoe
at the Vernatt's Inn, Pinchbeck, near Spalding.


Nest of Willow Wren
x
C. O. Page

Unusual nesting-site (x) of Willow Wren.

The next day in a trap cage baited with mealworms, I caught their natural mother, so I took her up and thought she would also feed, or help feed her own babies not a bit of it I am sure she is a suffragette, she called to them once, ate of all the tit-bits, and left them severely alone, to poor Maria; I therefore put her into the aviary where she seems quite happy. E.W.V.

Unusual Position of Nest of Willow Wren: The accompanying photo of this nest under the thatch of a summer house in my garden will probably interest many of those interested in our native avifauna. When I took possession, the brood had already left the nest, but one of the painters pointed out to me a brood of young Willow Wrens which were being fed on the lawn as the occupants of the nest, while they (painters, etc.) were doing the necessary repairs to the house, they had used the summer house to take their meals in, and had fed the old birds, and watched them carrying food to their family. I may add that even if I had not seen the birds on the lawn I should have accepted his information, as he proved a true lover of our nature birds—also a skilful amateur taxidermist, and gave me, very intelligently, much interesting data regarding the birds of the district, which as he occupies a cottage in close vicinity to a large wood he has ample opportunity of observing. W.T.P.

Correspondence.

SENEGAL x TURTLE DOVE HYRRIDS.

Sir—I send this short notice in the hope that the rearing of a hybrid Senegal x Turtle Dove may be worth recording.

The parents, a cock Senegal and hen Turtle Dove, were both hatched two years ago in my aviary. They mated last summer and laid eggs, which were infertile. In the autumn the Senegal made himself so unpleasant to the other inmates that I turned him loose. He stayed about the garden and came every day for food and to converse with the Turtle. In spring I turned her out also and they presently nested and sat steadily for a week, till a Barbary Dove tried to appropriate the nest and in the scrimmage the eggs were thrown out and broken. The pair then made a nest in the fork of a horse chestnut branch, and on July 7th hatched one young bird, after about a fortnight's incubation, the cock sitting during the day and the hen at night.

When the young one was a week old it was indistinguishable from a Turtle Dove of the same age. Ten days later I noticed it sitting on the bough by the nest, being fed by both parents. It was well feathered, bluish grey on the back and wings and white underneath. I suppose my inspection annoyed the birds, for next morning the young one had vanished and was not seen again till August 7th, when it came with its parents to be fed. It was fully fledged and independent. In colour it resembled the Turtle Dove, wings mottled with brown, white tipped tail and a rudimentary "necklace." Its size and shape, especially about the head, and the full black eye were its father's, but though its flight was strong and rapid it had not the whistling sound so characteristic of Senegals. It still (August 14th) comes to feed, but it is very shy and wild and its parents and the Barbary Doves have begun to persecute it. I fully expect it will emigrate in the autumn and probably not be seen any more.

The Senegal is very anxious to go to nest again, but I do not think his wife will consent. If she does, I will remove the young one before it can fly, and put it in the aviary for a time to see which of its parents it finally resembles.

(Miss) E. F. CHAWNER.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES.

Sir—I have been a member of your society for a few years, and like many other members, am frequently starting new kinds of birds, most of which are from time to time mentioned in your Magazine. But there is one thing that I can never find in these articles: and that is, how these birds are fed. Now this is the greatest consideration for a beginner, as many birds are lost from wrong feeding before discovering the right food to give them, especially green food; what kind to give, and when, and when not to give it them. The writers of these articles, having kept the birds themselves, and in many cases bred from them, could give beginners most valuable information on these most necessary points.

E. B. H.

The writer touches upon an important point, for we are continually having an accession of new members and such details are of great importance and will greatly tend to increase the practical value of any article, and I sincerely hope members will bear this in mind when writing about their birds and recording breeding results. I would also point out to new members that writers fear repeating themselves somewhat and that the back vols. contain much useful data upon the subject the above writer refers to, and that they will also materially help the funds of the Club by purchasing the same.—Ed.

GOULDIAN FINCH WITH ABNORMAL PLUMAGE.

Sir—I am writing about a Blackheaded Gouldian Finch (♀). She has just moulted out very well and is in absolute health, but all her breast has turned black, also the blue ring on the top of her head and the blue on her tail have also turned black. The black extends in streaks over the yellow of her breast. She looks altogether as if she had been soiled with soot. Would you tell me, is this uncommon or not? The two cocks with her have moulted out into the most brilliant colours and are quite normal, so it cannot be the food. She is in a large cage and has been over here about four years, hitherto her plumage has been quite normal. These are the first Gouldians I have kept and I should be glad to know if this is usual. The bird seems perfectly well and cheerful.

(Miss) Augusta Bruce.

There is considerable variableness, especially about the head plumage of this species. Some Black-heads are splashed with red and some Red-heads similarly splashed with black, but such plumage as that recorded above is quite abnormal, it is, however, very probable this bird will revert to normal plumage at the next moult. If the bird lives to pass through another moult I hope Miss Bruce will send a record of the plumage for publication.—Ed.

Post-Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help me to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. were in sending me dead birds to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

Two Gouldian Finches (Rev. John M. Patterson). The cause of death of the bird showing colour was pneumonia; the other bird, in immature plumage, had enteritis. No doubt the changeable, wet, or chilly weather had something to do with their illness. Your housing and feeding seem quite correct. Pay scrupulous attention to the ground surface of the aviary, especially where it becomes wet. I condole with you on your loss, more so when success seemed within sight. Gouldian Finches are very delicate until they become acclimatised to an out-door aviary in our climate.

Blue Sugar Bird (the Hon. Mrs. Bourke). The cause of death was pneumonia. The mortality has been fearful in the newly imported Sugar Birds and Tanagers One should be chary in purchasing freshly imported birds during inclement weather.

Yellow Budgerigar ♀ (Hayward W. Mathias). There was cerebral congestion. Most probably the bird died in a fit. The avary was *not* in an active state of ovulation.

Indigo Bunting ♂ (Dr. Easton Scott). The breast bone was very prominent, due to wasting of the pectoral muscles and indicating the bird had been ailing some time. The lungs were the seat of inflammation and the inflamed organ was consolidated, which is quite unusual in birds.

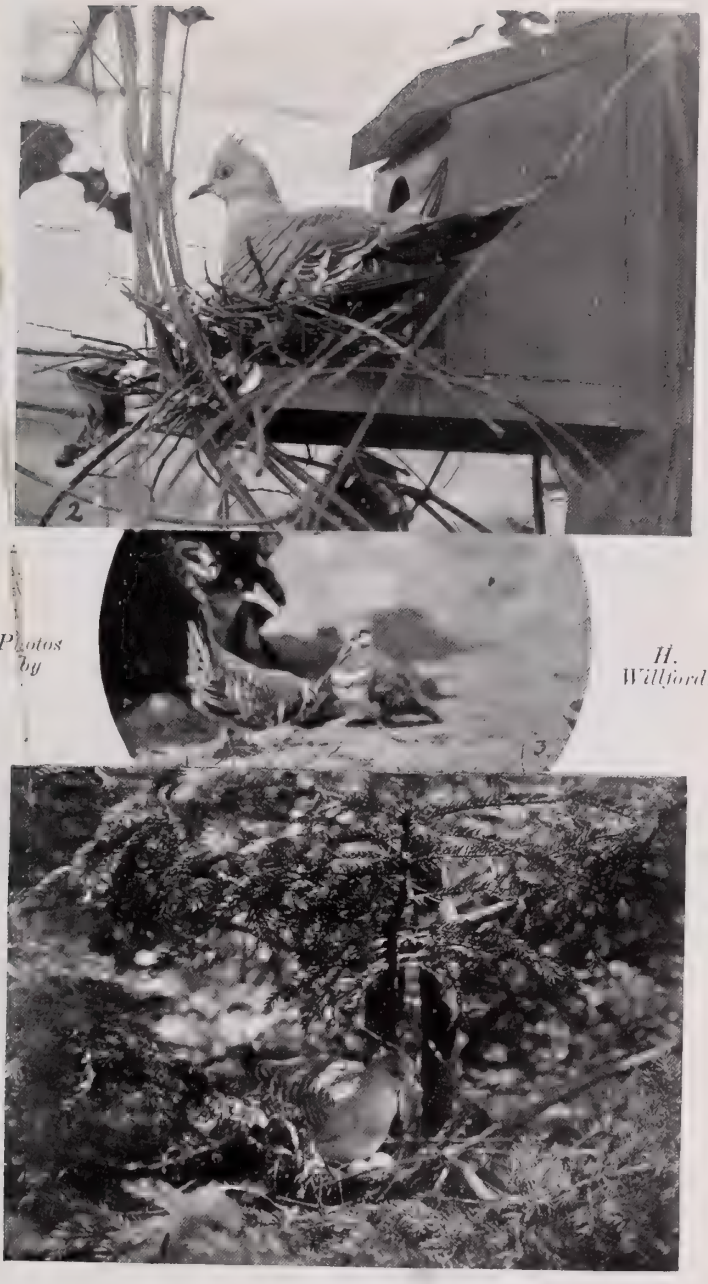
Nonpareil ♂ (Mrs. Hartley, Hastings). The breast bone was very prominent, indicating the bird had been ailing for some time. Its lungs were the seat of pneumonia. No doubt this was due to the inclement weather before the bird got acclimatized. As a rule, the majority of these birds die soon after their importation or leaving the bird dealer's hands. Pneumonia is not, as a rule, contagious in birds, but there is no doubt it is due to infection derived from within the system or without from the surroundings, coupled by a chill during the inclement weather. As a rule, in other animals, it is of a contagious origin ; or rather it complicates other infectious diseases such as influenza and strangles in the horse, distemper in the dog or cat, or swine fever in the pig. Cold of itself would not cause it. Bird dealers' establishments are ordinarily reeking with germs of disease ; although their stock cages, pens, etc., especially after a coat of white wash, may be cleanly to the eye. I think to obviate much of the spread of disease bird-dealers should have two sets of metal cages ; one set to be thoroughly scalded before any fresh birds are put into it ; and so on. Germs of disease are mostly microscopic in size ; but the most deadly are those that are even invisible to the most powerful microscope yet devised. Really, cages should be rendered asceptic before fresh birds are put into them. Very often the period of incubation the time of reception of the germs into the bird's body to the time of the first appearance of illness -may be weeks and even months, nay, it may be indefinite, and in this last case, the germ remains dormant or latent until something depresses the system, so that the germ gains the mastery and manifests its ravages in the form of symptoms. A variety of food, plenty of exercise, fresh air, dryness, and scrupulous cleanliness of the ground surface of the cage or aviary, obviates illness to a great extent. Given good hygienic conditions, foreign birds are as hardy as the native. If British birds are subjected to the same bad hygienic conditions as foreign birds generally are, the mortality is just as great. The R.S.P.C.A. should take up the question of bird hygiene.

Blue Roller (Dr. Philip Gosse). This bird's breast bone was very prominent, its body emaciated and anæmic. The kidneys had undergone fatty degeneration. Anæmia is a very common condition in birds during the moulting process ; and in all probability it is of microbic origin. The debilitating moulting process, and very likely an improper dietary during this process would favour infection of the blood stream.

Indigo Bunting ♀ (Mrs. Scott, Surrey). This bird was very fat indeed and the liver had undergone fatty infiltration. The lungs were black, due to much carbon—anthracosis. There were no signs of any external injury. The boby was otherwise in a good condition. No doubt death was due to the effect of convulsions.

Answered by Post.—Wm. Bush.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



Photos by *H. Willford.*

Bird Life Through the Camera.
1 and 2—Australian Crested Pigeon.
3—Plumed Ground Dove.

Photo by *H. Willford.*

Bird Life Through the Camera.

4.—Senegal Dove on Nest.

5.—Diamond Dove (♀) Brooding Chicks.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Bird Life Through the Camera.

BY H. WILLFORD.

(Continued from page 254).

Doves have always been some of my first favourites, right from the days when I kept an odd cock Turtle Dove. There is, moreover, such a variety of contour, size, and colouration, that even the most *blasé* bird-keeper can have abundant variety, add to this a readiness to nest in captivity and I am sure I have given ample evidence to secure my favourites a place in my readers' aviaries. Again, though if too many species be kept together in a limited space a great deal of bickering will go on among themselves, they will neither harm nor interfere with the smallest Waxbill inhabiting their enclosure—yet again, they are very accommodating as regards their diet, the *menu* of any collection of hard and soft bills amply suffices for their modest requirements; in fact, the seed-eating species subsist mostly on white millet, canary seed and millet sprays, with green food and rock salt, though they also pick over the larger seeds supplied for the various species of Cardinals, etc. For soft and chaste colouration the Dove Tribe is without a rival

THE DIAMOND DOVE *(Geopelia cuneata).* This beautiful and charming Australian species is unrivalled for inclusion in a small aviary. Their miniature size, beautiful and soft colouration, vivacity, and interesting and entertaining courting displays make them altogether delightful inmates of the garden aviary.

Their beauty is clearly shown in the photo (No. 5) reproduced herewith, which also aptly illustrates the exceedingly ornametal character and useful cover provided by hops in the garden aviary, once they have become established.

The nest is a very frail structure, consisting merely of a few bents laid across any small leaf stems that will form a supporting base, an astonishing feature being how the eggs are retained, and the sitting bird supported, so remarkable is its frailty; while when the pair of squabs are partially fledged, their little bodies hang over their cot on every side (vide "B.N." Vol. V. p. 217). Another surprising feature is their prolificness, as many as six pairs being annually reared by a single pair.

Description: With the photo before us I need say nothing as to form, or the arrangement of spots. The male has the head, neck, and breast of a beautiful delicate grey, merging into white on the abdomen and under tail-coverts; back and shoulders cinnamon-brown; wings also cinnamon brown, with the coverts dark grey and the inner webs of most of the quills a rich rufous-brown; the tail feathers are an arrangement of grey, white and blackish-grey, beautifully harmonised; naked skin round the eyes bright red; bill horn-brown; legs and feet reddish-flesh-color; the wing is thickly spotted with pure white spots, narrowly edged with black.

The female differs from her mate in slightly inferior size, browner hue of the upper surface generally, and her white wing spots are larger and less numerous than those of the male.

The photo (No.5) depicts the hen brooding her two chicks.

Australian Crested Pigeon *(Ocyphaps lophotes).* Another beautiful Australian species, fully three times as large as the Diamond Dove and not so well suited for small aviaries as that species, being considerably wilder, neither does it breed quite so freely, nevertheless in several roomy aviaries it has been quite prolific, and in one of my aviaries a pair have reared as many as ten young in a season. The birds and their nests are well figured in the photos (Nos. 1 and 2) reproduced herewith, which also fully portrays their handsome appearance, and gives a correct idea of comparative size with the other species described in this instalment.

The nest is fairly bulky and in my aviaries has usually been constructed on the old nest of some other bird.

Description: In the photos the dark markings are clearly brought out, so that I need not occupy space with describing these, merely indicating the various colour areas. The adult male has the head, neck, breast and abdomen grey; crest black; back and rump grey with an olivaceous sheen; upper tail coverts brownish-grey tipped with white; sides of neck and breast tinged with a rosy hue; the wings are various greys, with bands of metallic green and violet-blue; central tail feathers brown, the others blackish, slightly glossed with purple, blue and green on the outer webs and tipped with white; bill blackish; naked skin round the eye pink; legs and feet pinkish-crimson. The sexes are similar, but the female is slightly smaller.

The Senegal Dove *(Tutur senegalensis)*. This is a very beautiful and softly coloured African species. In the photo (No. 4) reproduced herewith, this species is figured nesting in an apple tree, one bough of which I had to remove to get the photograph, in which the sheeny areas and soft tones are well indicated and I hope these will come out well in the reproduction. This species is more frequently met with than any other of the Turtle tribe, and the rate at which they breed is so great that soon I shall have to liberate some. The Senegal should prove very useful as foster parents for some of the rarer and more difficult to breed species.

Description: The adult male has the head, neck, and breast vinous; abdomen, vent and under tail coverts white; back chestnut with a lilac sheen; lower back and rump lead-grey; upper tail coverts brownish-grey; the wings are an arrangement of black, brown-grey, leaden-grey and grey, in which the latter hue predominates; the tail feathers are—commencing with the central ones—brownish-grey, the next two leaden-grey, and the others blackish-slate at the base, merging through grey to white at the tips; bill blackish; legs and feet crimson. The sexes are similar, but the female is slightly inferior in size and also richness of colouring.

The Plumed Ground Dove *(Lophophaps plumifera)*: Another very beautiful Australian species, which until comparatively recently was quite rare, but is now fairly frequently met with. So far however I know of no record of its having reared young in this country, but in the aviaries of our esteemed member Mr. T. N. Wilson a pair laid two eggs, but I think made no attempt to incubate them.

In one of the photos (No. 3) I secured the cock in courting attitude, displaying to his mate. In the other (No. 6) they are figured in characteristic attitude resting under a wall.

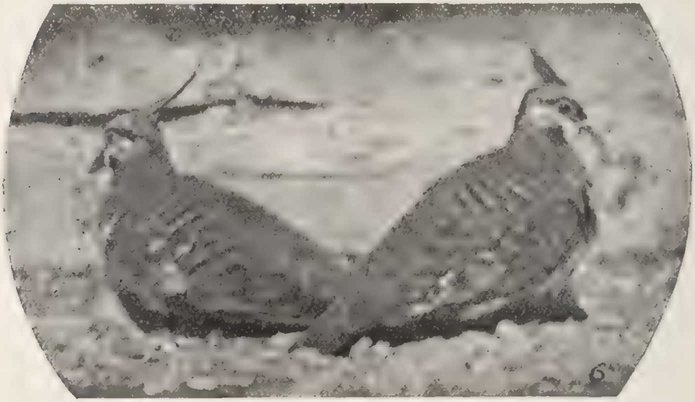

Photo by H. Willford.

Plumed Ground Doves at Rest.

Description: The prevailing colour is pale cinnamon, relieved with bars of grey, black, bronzy purple, with the bare skin round the eyes red and bluish—a very beautiful species.

It is essentially a ground species, and is very seldom seen in any other position, if scared, it merely rises and flies to a safe distance, soon dropping again into the long grass. In its native haunts it frequents creek sides, running among the long grass with very quail-like habits and demeanour.

To be continued.

Notes of Some Birds of the Andes in the Neighbourhood of Aconcagua.

By PHILIP GOSSE, M. R. C. S.

(Continued from Page 250).

D'ORBIGNY'S SEED-SNIPE: *(Thinocorus orbignyianus).*

The member of the F. B. C. who procures a pair of these birds may well be envied.

They are extremely rare and curious birds.

They live in small flocks of six or eight birds in the most inaccessible spots. Always on damp marshy ground. I never found one below 11,000 feet. The highest I saw them was as much as 14,000 feet. They seem to thrive in the wildest, and gloomiest places, where there seems to be almost nothing for them to live upon. Their flight is very much like that of our snipe. The legs are quite short.

They are extraordinarily difficult to see, even when within a few feet of one, being exactly like the stones.

COMMON SEED-SNIPE: *(Thinocorus rumicivorus).*

These are somewhat like the former but much commoner. I have seen them down in the plains as well.

They had the curious habit for a "day-bird" of flying about, round and round our camp at night uttering a croaking note. I found two young ones in an inch of water. I tried to rear them but they got "laid-over" in my sleeping bag.

Scytalopus magellanicus.

This tiny little coal-black wren-like bird does not appear to have an English name yet. I only saw one. It had never been seen before outside of Chili.

CRESTED DUCK: *(Anas cristata).*

One occasionally saw these birds on a little lake in the Horcones Valley about 11,000 feet up. They seemed to use the lake as a resting place when crossing the Andes.

Below will be found a few particulars of some of the birds I collected at Lujan, a village fifteen miles south of Mendoza in the Argentine.

PATAGONIAN MARSH-STARLING: *(Trupialis defilippii).*

These lovely birds are very common here. Strings of dead ones are for sale in the market for eating. They are much like our starling in form and habits. I don't know why these birds are not freely imported, as they have everything in their favour as aviary birds. They are of a lovely scarlet colour on the breast.

The native name is "Pecho Colorado."

SILKY COW-BIRD: *(Molothrus bonariensis).*

Flocks of hundreds of these birds were common. They were always to be found with the cattle and are already well known as aviary birds.

BLUE AND YELLOW TANAGER: *(Lamprotes bonariensis).*

I only saw one of these gorgeous birds, sitting in a tree near Lujan.

They should easily stand our climate.

MANY-COLOURED GROUND-FINCH: *(Saltatricula multicolor).*

The natives call this the "siete-cuchillos," or "seven knives," on account of the damage it does to the buds of the vines.

YELLOW SEED-FINCH: *(Sycalis lutea).*

This is the common saffron finch.

Seen usually in flocks of ten to twenty. They do not come near the towns or villages.

AYMANE PARRAKEET: *(Bolborhynchus aymara).*

I only saw one specimen of this parrakeet.

GUIRA CUCKOO: *(Guira piririgua).*

This most delightful of birds is to be found in and around Mendoza, and I saw very many in the eucalyptus trees in the park ot La Plata quite close to Buenos Ayres. They are somewhat like the Hoopoe, with long barred tails.

In many of the Peon's cottages you see them running about quite tame.

Why is it that large numbers of Saffron Finches are imported every year into this country but rarely any of the other equally common and more beautiful and desirable birds?

I can think of few nicer birds to keep than for example, the Patagonian Starling and the Guira Cuckoo. The climate where they are found is certainly hotter and drier than ours, but any of the birds I have mentioned ought to live out of doors in England all the year round. Although in the summer it is very hot even at a high altitude, it becomes very cold at night. Often in the middle of a scorching hot day it would turn suddenly very cold and a snow storm would come on.

I have several times seen the unusual sight of humming-birds, the white-sided humming-bird *(Oreotrochilus leucopleurus)* flitting about in a thick snow storm.

These latter birds build a tiny nest shaped like a house-martin's, against a cliff. The only other humming-bird we saw was the Patagonian Humming-bird, a large brown bird of somewhat clumsy flight.

Since writing the above I see a well known dealer is offering the Starlings at 25s. each.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

By Capt. G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(continued from page 197).

LAUGHING THRUSHES AND BABBLERS.

The Eastern Variegated Laughing-Thrush *(T. variegatum)*: I have met this bird in the Station where it is uncommon in winter. It is another perfect beast to describe briefly. The general effect at a little distance is a sober looking bird, brown above, buff below, with cheeks which have black markings about them. Length 10 inches, tail 5.2 It is seen at its best when flying, as then the beautiful markings on the tail and the bright wing-pattern of bright yellow, slate and black is seen. This last winter there was a flock of twenty or more about the compound, but for a long time I thought there were only three or four, so quietly and cautiously did they move. It is not a noisy bird and it has some rather pleasing notes.

The Himalayan Streaked Laughing-Thrush *(T. lineatum)*: This is a very common bird at all seasons in, above, and below, the Station, and in some parts is about the only bird to be seen. At a distance it might be put down as a plain brown bird, but on close inspection its various shades of chestnuts and browns, the glistening feather-shafts, white on some parts, black or chestnut on others, and the beautiful cross-ray markings especially on the tail render it quite handsome. We get the more brightly coloured eastern variety. I kept some for a good long time and found them easy to cater for, in fact I did not even trouble to meat them off but turned them straight into the aviary where there was a liberal diet going for other insectivorous birds. I think this was the right treatment as they soon got tame and settled down very well, whereas, as I afterwards found out, they are not desirable birds for cage life. On the voyage home it was a toss-up which cage I hated the more, theirs (which certainly included two very wild Chinese "Spectacle" Thrushes) or the Sibias. They were very nervous and not clean. In the aviary they were most interesting, though there were occasions when I wished I had never caught them. One day I saw a bird drop from the top of the far side of the aviary, and had a long and fruitless search for a bird with a fit. The mystery solved itself the next day when I saw my three *lineatum* do their drop one after the other and streak along the ground to cover. I have only twice had experience of birds with fits, but am not likely to forget what they look like and bar the thud this drop gave one the exact impression of a bird in a fit. Even when I knew the drop well it often gave me an unpleasant start. Of course I ought not to have been caught at all as I had often seen these birds do this in a wild state. Babblers and other Laughing-Thrushes (which I have noticed) cross an open space by hopping (hunting on the way) to the top of a tree and then sailing one after the other on outspread wings to the foot of the next. Our friend "Streaks", who usually goes about in parties of from six to ten, hops to the top, does his "drop", and scuttles along, half hop half fly, to the nearest cover, often jinking and turning back to his starting point. One can quite understand the reason for this in scrub-jungle country where bushes are low and hawks abound, but I have seen them do it in forest country too.

Then too they are annoying when one wishes to catch them out of the aviary. Mr. Kennedy (who kindly helped me to "pack up") and I had a very trying time with them, they are such beggars to jink and hide, and when you have got them there is a good chance of their slipping out of your hand, even when you know how difficult it is to hold them.

They are loose feathered birds, the ones I took home felt the heat at Bombay very much and lost no time in discarding their clothing for which they were sorry when they arrived at Marseilles and rapidly put them on again, being practically in full plumage again by the time we reached Liverpool. They have a variety of call-notes which I used to like but a recent afternoon's experience has made me change my mind.

There is a charming nullah (not far from the house we are staying in) which gives Dalhousie its water-supply. Higher up it opens out fanwise into numerous small nullahs. At the junction the nullah has a wide rocky bed covered with undergrowth, low berry-bearing bushes, wild raspberry, dock, balsam, and some of the stingiest kind of nettle, with a few nice trees, chestnut and oak, dotted here and there. The sides of the nullahs are forest, chiefly deodar. An ideal place for birds it must be in the berry and seed season. The rocks gave off a great deal of heat, there was no shade, and it was a real hot and stuffy day working up for a thunderstorm; altogether it was not the sort of thing one has the right to expect at 7000 feet and over. Also I had had a most disappointing day in the bird line and I had made sure of finding birds here. I found birds, but, bar a few warblers, they were all *lineatum*; the place was stiff with them. They had young about to leave or just left the nest, and they objected to my presence and made the fact known by continually uttering their rather plaintive trisyllable whistle call. I stood it all right while moving up, but when I wanted to sit down and look round when a bit higher up, the ones lower down took such a long time to calm down and those near me were so persistent that I was fairly driven to the peace of the deodars, where one was almost pleased to hear the monotonous "whe-ore" of the Barbet in place of the exasperating "whiu-hoo" of our friend "Streaks".

It is small wonder that they are common, to my knowledge they breed steadily three at a time from April to July and their nests are well concealed. All the nests I have found have been on a ledge of rock concealed by ivy or more commonly in a crevice in a bank, sometimes at foot, incovered by a thick bush, made of grass lined with roots and rather shallow, certainly the more exposed nests have been deeper. The eggs are a beautiful greeny blue without spots. Oates gives the breeding season as being April to September. He also states that the nest is deep and placed in thick bushes near the ground. Our birds are, I should say, a step ahead in the race for survival. Length of bird 8 inches, tail 3.6.

I find I have passed over a very attractive bird, the WHITE-THROATED LAUGHING-THRUSH, *(Garrulax albigularis)*. I have only seen it a few times at Kajiar among low bushes but was much taken with its neat appearance. It is another evening dress bird with a fine expanse of white shirt, coat and a small waistcoat olive brown, trousers ferruginous. Length 12 inches, tail 5.7.

BABBLERS, I will only mention as the two common ones (The Common and the Yellow-eyed) are found below the Station, and I am far better acquainted with birds above the Station. There is a little Wren-Babbler which passes through on migration (vertical at any rate), but I regret that I do not even know its name. The one I caught refused to be meated off. There are one or two others not far below the Station, about which I only know one thing and that useless, that their young just leaving the nest are the epitome of prosperity, they look so fat and fit. I must say I prefer Laughing-Thrushes to Babblers, they are usually far nicer to look at and have just as much character, in which latter quality lies the charm of these birds to the aviculturist.

To be continued.

Foreign Birds

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 226).

Chapter II.—Sub-family EUPHONIIÆ.—Section II.

Cap and abdomen yellow or red; throat black.

Diet and treatment has been already given, it is the same in every respect as in section I.

Brevity is a necessity in the description of these species, so I am not quoting travellers' notes save where they illustrate some practical feature of their life history. I am merely giving the necessary details for recognition and treatment in captivity; as the various species reach this country, I shall hope to amplify these notes with separate and fuller accounts of such species.

Purple and Yellow Euphonia *(E. chlorotica)*. This species has a wide range and varies considerably in the different localities—the above description refers to the birds found in Guiana. The Brazilian and Bolivian forms are larger, varying from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and have been given *sub*-specific rank as sub-species *violaceicollis*, while the Peruvian form, sub-species *taczanowskii* may be distinguished by the yellow areas on the crown and under surface of body being of a distinctly paler hue.

Adult male: Upper surface deep purplish-black; fore cap rich yellow; under surface of body brilliant yellow; throat purplish-black; bill, legs and feet blackish. Total length $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{5}$.

Female: Greyish olive-green; washed on the forehead, rump and under surface with yellowish; centre of abdomen ashy-white.

Habitat: "Guiana, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and Eastern Peru." (B.M.C.)

Purple-throated Euphonia *(E. affinis)* In their delightful book "Our Search for a Wilderness," Mary B., and C. William Beebe record the following concerning this species:

> "At the sound of the guns, three tiny male Purple-throated "Euphonias, clad in purple jackets, yellow caps and waistcoats, "came down to see what the noise was about. They were "ridiculously tame and sang their simple chattering song in our "very faces". Locality in the jungle at Arema.

I do not think this species has been previously imported alive into this country, but it would form a pleasing addition to the list of birds known to British aviculture. I may, however, add that several of these species (Section II) are very similar in plumage, and that comparison with authenticated skins is necessary for correctly defining the species, for want of this some rare arrivals may have been overlooked and passed as some well known species—the genus *Euphonia* is easily recognised, but the species are not*

Adult male: Upper surface deep bluish-black, with a purplish sheen on the neck; throat bluish-black; under surface bright yellow; bill black; legs and feet brownish-black. Total length $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Female: Upper surface olive, washed with grey and tinged with yellow on the forehead and rump; under surface of body pale yellow.

Habitat: "Mexico and Central America down to Costa Rica." (B.M.C.)

BLUISH-BACKED EUPHONIA *(E. trinitatis)*. Several of this species have been privately imported by our esteemed members A. Sutcliffe and R. Suggitt, and there seems to be no other record of living species having reached the British Isles.

Adult male: Upper surface bluish-black, with a steely sheen; cap and under surface of body bright yellow; throat bluish-black; bill black; legs and feet blackish-brown. Total length $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Female: Upper surface olive-green and strongly washed with yellowish; under surface of body greenish-yellow, with the centre of breast and abdomen greyish.

Habitat: "Trinidad, Venezuela, and Northern Columbia." (B.M.C.)

ORANGE-CAPPED EUPHONIA *(C. xanthogastra)*. Another very handsome species and which I do not think is known to British aviculture.

Adult male: Upper surface and throat refulgent blackish-purple; top of head and abdomen deep and rich orange-yellow; bill black; legs and feet blackish-brown. Total length 4 inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Female: Upper surface deep olive-green, with the nape washed with grey; forehead and under surface of body yellowish, with the throat, breast and middle of abdomen buffish-grey.

Habitat: "Brazil, Amazonia, Guiana, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru." (B.M.C.)

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* I shall be pleased to undertake the naming or to verify the naming of any birds that may die in member's possession, if bodies are sent to me at once. Such details as are known should also be sent.

Rufous-capped Euphonia *(E. ruficeps).* Not yet known to British aviculture.

Adult male: Upper surface shining purplish-black, with a violet sheen on the nape; top of head dark rufous-chestnut; throat black; under surface of body orange-yellow, slightly washed with rufous in the middle of abdomen; bill black; legs and feet blackish-brown. Total length $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Female: Upper surface olive-green, nape plumeous-blue; top of head washed with rufous; under surface of body yellowish, with the throat and middle of abdomen yellow-ochre; ventral region pale rufous.

Habitat: "Bolivia and Venezuela." (B.M.C.)

Yellow-capped Euphonia *(E. luteicapilla).* Not known to British aviculture.

Adult male: Upper surface blue with a steely sheen; cap rich yellow, which is also the colour of the under surface of body; throat steel-blue; bill blackish, bluish at the base; legs and feet blackish. Total length 4 inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Female: Upper surface olive-green; under surface of body yellowish, brighter on the centre of abdomen.

Habitat: "Costa Rica and Veragua." (B.M.C.)

Black-throated Euphonia *(E. gracilis).* Not known to British aviculture.

Adult male: Upper surface dark blackish-blue with a purplish sheen on the back of the neck; front half of cap brilliant yellow, which is also the colour of the abdomen; throat and breast blackish-blue; bill blackish-blue; legs and feet blackish-brown. Total length $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Female:Upper surface olive-green, with the bases of the feathers greyish-olive; under surface yellowish, washed with olive on the sides of the body.

Habitat: Costa Rica and Veragua." (B.M.C.)

To be continued.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. HOPKINSON, D. S. O., M. A., M. D.

(Continued from page 256.)

CUCULIDÆ.

The Cuckoos are represented in Gambia by five *genera*; (1) *Centropus* and (2) *Ceuthmochares,* the Coucals, (3) *Coccystes.* the Spotted Cuckoos, (4) *Cuculus,* the typical Cuckoos and (5) *Chrysococcyx,* the Golden Cuckoos.

Centropus senegalensis. SENEGAL COUCAL.

Range. Tropical Africa; North to the Nile Delta. *(H.L.)*

A brown bird with whitish belly, about as big as a Jay but much longer in the tail. The crown, nape, rump and tail are black, the wings and wing-coverts burnt-sienna brown and the whole under surface pale creamy white. The feathers are coarse and harsh-looking, giving the birds always a rather untidy appearance. The bill and feet are black, the latter strong and furnished with powerful claws, especially that on the hind toe, which is long and straight like a lark's and of great use in assisting their movements among the long tangled grass they frequent. The iris is bright red, giving them an alert and rather fierce expression. In length they measure about sixteen inches, of which the tail forms nearly half.

They are extremely common here and found everywhere throughout the country. The dry swamps are perhaps their favourite resorts and here they are to be seen flopping slowly from bush to bush or running about on the ground, and are so tame and careless of man that they have gained the name of "Foolish Bird", from the idiotic way they have of offering themselves as targets at the closest range to any one out with a gun. Their Mandingo name is "Kandiwutu". Their note is one of the commonest sounds of the evening and early part of the night, and can generally be heard on all sides about sunset and after, as one bird answers another, calling "wu-tu-tu-tu-" repeated *ad libitum* with a gradually falling pitch, the performer attitudinising the while on his perch, his throat puffed out and collapsed alternately, his head bowed forward till his beak points to his toes, his tail bent downwards till parallel with his legs and his whole attitude apparently one of stiff and grotesque discomfort. At other times they also utter a sort of cackle somewhat like the bush-fowls' call and at the same time suggesting a mocking laugh, particularly annoying when it follows immediately after a bad miss.

Unlike the true Cuckoos the Coucals build nests and hatch their young. The nest is placed low down in a bush always just inside some patch of really thick growth. The natives assure me that they never find one of their nests which does not contain a living but crippled snake, kept there to scare away intruders. This is a pretty tall story, especially as none of my informants have yet been able to show me a nest to confirm or refute his story; however I expect the myth originated from the fact that the birds may frequently be seen carrying off small snakes, still wriggling, in their beaks and that they may sometimes ornament their nests with a cast snake-slough. A Mandingo could easily evolve an even more marvellous tale from such a basis of fact. Their food consists of lizards, small snakes, frogs and other reptiles as well as large insects. One I had in a cage began to eat locusts an hour or two after capture and in a few days took to raw meat, chicken-lights etc, on which he throve until his escape later on. He was caught in the kitchen-hut, which I suppose he had entered to pick up scraps, and from that I presume that these birds commonly augment their usual diet of living food by any pieces of offal or dead things they may come across.

Ceuthmŏchares flavirostris. YELLOW-BILLED COUCAL.

Range. West Africa, Senegal to Gold Coast. *(H.L.)*

I do not think I have seen this bird in the Gambia more than once; this was in June, 1907, when I saw at Albreda a pair of what I am practically certain were this species.

Above they are dark slate with a dark steel-blue gloss on the rump, wings and tail; below paler slate-grey; under surface of wings bluish grey, of tail steel-blue. Beak yellow, upper mandible strongly curved downwards; legs black; iris deep crimson. Length 12.5 inches.

Coccystes glandarius. GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO.

Range. Europe to Persia, Tropical Africa in winter *(H.L.)*

This bird is only a winter visitor to the Gambia, and during that season is not uncommon, though by no means regularly seen. Its note is a harsh "kark-kark" as a rule, but in the evenings it also often utters a prolonged dove-like call, "doo-doo-doo-doo", from which it gets its usual Mandingo name, "Jambo-doodoo; it is often also called "Saling", the name for any small Hawk, because according to the natives it commonly kills and eats doves like the hawk. This it certainly may do at times, but its principal food consists of insects and small reptiles.

Description. Crown, which is crested, grey streaked with black, rest of upper surface including wings and tail slaty-brown; wing-feathers tipped with white. Throat sides of neck and upper breast yellowish buff, remainder of under surface white. Iris hazel; bill brown, yellow at base; legs blackish brown. Length 15 inches. Young birds have the crown black and the wings a redder brown.

C. jacobinus. PIED CRESTED CUCKOO.

Range. Tropical Africa. India. *(H.L.)*

This is a resident bird, but for all that is rather more rarely seen than the preceding. Above it is black glossed with green and with a distinct white band across the wing; tail black with white tips to the feathers; under surface white washed with pale buff. Iris. bill and legs black. Length 13.5 inches.

C. cafer. LEVAILLANT'S CUCKOO.

Range. Tropical Africa. *(H.L.)*

Also a resident in the Gambia and the commonest of our three *Coccystes.* They are generally found in pairs in fairly open but bushy country, especially along the borders of the swamps, where they obtain the greater part of their food, which is the same as that of the other species, large insects and small reptiles. Like our other *Coccystes* it is parasitic in its nesting habits. It's Mandingo name is "Kunchu-kulung". Above it is black more or less glossed with green; the wings are crossed by a broad white band. Tail tipped with white, more broadly on the feathers. Below white, strongly streaked with black on the throat, chest and under wing-coverts. Iris hazel; bill black; legs dark ashy. Length 14.5 inches

Cuculus gularis. LINEATED CUCKOO.

Range. Senegambia; North-east, Central and South Africa. *(H.L.)*

C. canorus. COMMON CUCKOO.

Range. Europe, Asia; Africa in winter. *(H.L.)*

Both these species occur in the Gambia and on one day in March, 1907, I shot a specimen of each. They are very alike in plumage, the only difference being that *C. gularis* has the outer tail-feathers completely barred with white only forming scallop-shaped patches, which do not cross the whole web. *C. canorus* is also slightly larger than *gularis,* 13 inches as against 12.5.

I suppose that one can safely say that the cuckoo-note commonly heard here is that of *C. gularis,* as I have never heard it before April, by which time the Common Cuckoos must have all left for the north. The earliest dates on which I have heard the Cuckoo during the last few years are, 1904, May 5, Lamin Koto; 1906, May 17, Kwinella; 1907, May 11, Sujuka; 1909, April 10 Fogniadd; 1910, April 26, Niumi.

C. clamosus. BLACK CUCKOO.

Range. Tropical Africa. *(H.L.)*

A very rare bird which however I believe I have seen once or twice. Above and below it is black glossed with dark green; quills brown barred with white, tail tipped with white. Length 12.5 inches.

Chrysococcyx smaragdineus. EMERALD CUCKOO.

Range. West and South Africa. *(H.L.)*

Male, a lovely emerald green above, below, throat green like the back, remainder of under surface yellow; tail, the four central feathers wholly green, the others tipped with white and the outer pair barred as well. Female, head ashy, mantle and wings green mottled with rufous, below white barred with green. Bill black at base, olive green towards tip; legs bluish grey. Iris dark brown. Length 8 inches.

C. klaasi. KLAAS' GOLDEN CUCKOO.

Range. Tropical Africa. *(H.L.)*

Male: above, metallic green shot with coppery red, a white patch above and behind eye; four central feathers of tail green like the back, remainder white barred with green. Below white barred with black and with a patch of green on each side of the breast. Female: Head dusky brown, back and wings green mottled with rufous, below buffy white narrowly barred with brown. Bill greenish tipped with black, legs olive brown, iris brown. Length 7 inches.

C. cupreus. GILDED CUCKOO.

Range. Tropical Africa. *(H.L.)*

Male: Above metallic green with coppery and blue reflections; a white streak on the crown, a spot of the same in front of and another behind the eye; below white barred at the sides with green. The female has no white marks on the head, the back is more coppery than green and the under surface is barred with bronze. Bill, horn-coloured; legs, bluish black; iris, red; Length, 7.5 inches.

All these three species of Golden Cuckoos should be found in the Gambia, but they must be very rare and are probably only rainy season visitors. I have only once seen a Golden Cuckoo alive, and that was near Kansala in Fogni, where one evening I watched one with glasses for some time. It was flying backwards and forwards between two trees, a lovely sight as the light of the setting sun flashed on his lustrous green plumage. I could not definitely say to what species it belonged, but thought it was *klaasi.* I have seen a good many skins for sale in the shops at Dakar, where they fetch large prices (five dollars each or more for the most brilliant species, *C. smaragdineus*) and as they fetch such prices the birds are naturally much sought after by the native skin-hunters, who no doubt are largely responsible for their great and increasing scarcity By the hunters they are called "Folio-tôkol."

The Golden Cuckoos haunt thickly wooded country and like to perch on tall trees, whence they can hawk after insects. The male has a loud whistling call. They make no nests but resemble the common Cuckoo in being parasitic on other birds.

INDICATORIDÆ.

Three species of Honeyguide appear in the Hand-List as including Gambia in their range, but they must be rare here I have only once seen a bird here, which I took to be Honeyguide, probably *maculatus,* as it had no yellow shoulder patches and a spotted breast. The natives too know nothing of any honey-showing bird, with which they would be sure to be acquainted, if one with such definite habits in that line as the South African bird was common in this country. The three species are:

Indicator indicator. HONEYGUIDE.

I. major. GREAT HONEYGUIDE.

Range of both species. Senegambia; North-east, East and South Africa. *(H.L.)*

I. maculatus. SPOTTED HONEYGUIDE.
Range. Senegambia to Gaboon. *(H.L.)*
The differences between them are:

I. indicator, brown above becoming slaty black on the back and mottled with white on the rump and upper tail-coverts. Shoulder patch bright yellow, chin and throat black in the male, white in the female, rest of under surface dirty white streaked with brown on the sides. Bill whitish pink, legs lead-coloured, iris yellowish brown. Length 7 inches.

I. major differs from the above in having the back washed with yellow, the chin and throat bright yellow and no yellow shoulder patch.

I. maculatus, above brown washed with olive, throat dirty white streaked with brown, remainder of under parts olive grey spotted white. Length 6.5 inches.

To be continued.

Visit of the Belfast National Field Club to Ballywalter Park.

By W. A. Green.

By kind invitation of Lady Dunleath, the members of the Belfast Naturalist Field Club visited Ballywalter Park on Saturday, 30th July. One of the main objects of the excursion was for the purpose of inspecting the aviary with its fine collection of rare exotic birds.

Owing to the limited time at their disposal, the inspection was by no means exhaustive, but all were struck by the happy and healthy condition of the little inmates. Absolute cleanliness is the prevailing note throughout, with surroundings as natural as possible in our variable climate. It speaks volumes that on Saturday the Weaver Birds were building their curiously shaped nests, and a tiny Virginian Nightingale was hatched out. With characteristic consideration, Lady Dunleath had delayed feeding the birds until the arrival of the party, so that they were seen to special advantage. The smaller birds in enclosures, surrounded by, and covered with fine wire netting, and containing ample cover in the shape of ferns, low, growing shrubs and trees. From the branches of the latter are hung nesting boxes with moveable tops—in

1
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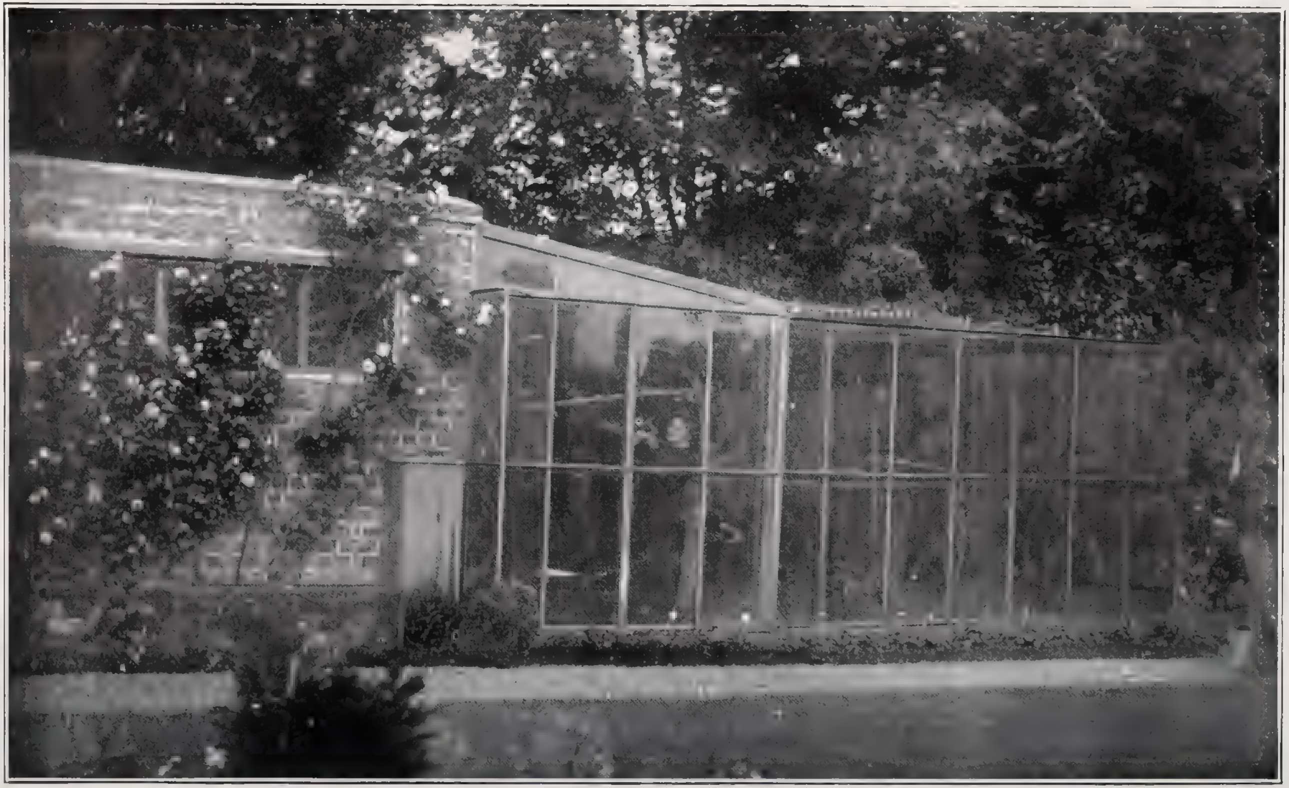
"Snaps" at Ballywalter Park.

1.- Australian Native Companions Screaming.
2.—Flamingo, Stork, and Egret.
3.—Small Birds at Aviary Feeding-table.



Miss Drummond's Aviaries.

For descriptive notes see pages 192 to 195.

some cases of glass, so that the eggs and young can be inspected without disturbing them. There were thirty or forty of these and most of them were in occupation.

The larger birds had freedom to wander through the Park, and the sight of Cranes, Flamingoes, etc., on every hand, gave the idea of a continental landscape rather than of a north of Ireland demesne.

For the aquatic birds an artificial lake was provided in the midst of the rock gardens, so that even in scientific research, beauty, and the general fitness of things was not lost sight of.

The following is a list of some of the birds that were specially noted in the collection:

Alpine Chough, Nutcrackers, Glossy Starling, Pekin Robin, Tanagers, Indian Buntings, Java and Diamond Sparrows, Cordon-bleu, Gouldian Finch, Waxbills, Red-crested Virginian, Green, and Yellow-billed Cardinals, Fire, Saffron, Lavender, Masked Mountain Zebra, Grass and African Singing Finches. Pintail, Nonpareil, Weaver Birds, Amadavats, Whydah Birds, Mannikins, Spice Birds, Indigo Birds, Cockatiels, Budgerigars, Parakeets, Egrets, Flamingos, Storks, American Whistling Ducks, Helmet, Bourdean, and Nicobar Pigeons, Rufous, Violet, Aurita, Java, Senegal, Diamond, Barbary, Ring-necked, and Australian Doves, Golden and Silver Pheasants, Californian, Harlequin, and Chinese-painted Quails, Common European Demoiselle, and Australian Cranes, South American Turkey (*Currasse*), and Rheas.

The announcement that an "Orange Bishop" and a "Pin-tail Parson" lived in perfect harmony with a number of "Cutthroats" and "Black-headed Nuns," caused considerable amusement.

In conclusion, the thanks of the Club are due to Lady Dunleath for her courtesy and kindness in allowing its members such an exceptional treat as the inspection of her aviaries.

A Holiday in the West Indies.

By A. Sutcliffe.

continued from page 262.

I looked in vain for our old friend the Nonpareil Bunting. Its range does not extend so far South, and neither this beautiful favourite nor his cousin the Indigo were in evidence. The roads are fenced with barbed wire, fixed on posts at convenient intervals, and when you leave the immediate vicinity of the Towns, numerous finches can be seen perching on the wire and posts. The Grey Finch *(Spermophila grisea)* is very common, and I have seen upwards of 100 in a flock. They are very fair songsters. Their song reminds one very much of our Brown Linnet's, it is quite as continuous and is very sweet. They are met with all over the Island and appear to be quite as numerous there as the House Sparrow here. Black-headed Lined Finches (*S. ocellata)* were fairly common. They were however in small parties of three or four. That pretty little bird the Fire Red Finch *(S. minuta)* could be frequently seen, and the same applies to the Gutteral Finch *(S. gutturalis)*. You can however only indentify the males, as their mates appear all alike at even a short distance, and it has been a very difficult matter to definitely indentify some of the hens even when caged, where they can be closely observed. At this season (January), Siskins were very scarce, and I must confess that I only saw one Hooded, and I cannot remember having seen a single Columbian, although at certain seasons they are said to be fairly numerous. On the other hand Red-legged Sugar Birds, Black and Yellow Creepers *(Certhiola luteola)* and Purple Sugar Birds, were to be met with whenever you left the beaten track. It is very difficult to imagine a more beautiful sight than a flock of Red-legged Sugar Birds (Yellow-winged Sugar Birds) feeding in the bright sunshine, I am convinced they feed more on insects than we give them credit for doing, as you can see them fly from a branch and snap up passing insects, or searching the under side of leaves. I must confess there were many birds I could not identify and I am making no attempt to describe or try to identify the Humming birds. These little gems will work practically under one's nose, and to one not used to the sight, the dazzling beauty of these mites was an experience not easily forgotten.

Swallows were fairly numerous, they are totally different from ours. Many of them appeared to be very beautiful birds, some were quite as large as our Swift.

One of the Manakins *(Pipra auricapilla)* which could be seen in parties of twos and threes or more I named the Yellow-headed, on account of the male's most distinctive feature being his bright Yellow-head; his thighs are also very conspicuous being covered with pure white feathers dashed with red, which can be distinctly seen when the bird is perching. Description of plumage is as follows.—

Adult male: Black, with the head, sides of face and nape shining golden-yellow, and the thighs white splashed with bright red; beak, legs and feet whitish-horn. Total length $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, tail $\frac{7}{8}$.

Adult female: Above olive-green, with the quills and tail feathers brownish; below pale greyish-green; beak dark horn; legs and feet yellowish flesh colour. The plumage of the male is very refulgent, the whole having a glistening satiny-like surface and the various colour areas are of a purity and richness, which are quite beyond description; these remarks apply equally to the other species described in this paper.

They feed on berries, fruit, and insects, and all my efforts to induce the niggers to catch me some were in vain, the niggers have a notion Manakins will not live in cages. It is necessary to penetrate into the wooded districts to see this and another beautiful Manakin, which I named the Red-crested, it might also appropriately be designated the Blue-backed *(Chiroxiphia lanceolata)*. It was not so numerous as the Yellow-headed, but could be seen singly or with what I presume was its mate, a greenish brown bird with lighter underparts. The Red-crested is one of those birds our exhibiting members would say "will take some stopping." The description is.—

Adult male: General body colouring deep black; crown shining carmine-lake; back bright blue; the two central tail feathers are pointed and fully one half inch longer than the outer ones; beak dark-horn; legs and feet yellowish-flesh colour. Total length 4½ inches, of which the central tail feathers measure nearly 2 and the outer ones 1 inch.

Adult female: Above olive-green; quills and tail feathers brownish; below very pale greyish-green; beak, legs and feet as male.

There was another of there Manakins which I named the Red-headed, *(Pipra aureola)* a rather stout bird with a very beautiful coat as follows:—

Adult male: The whole of the head, hind neck and breast, very rich carmine-lake; sides of face, throat and chest rich golden-yellow; back, rump and wing-coverts deep black; quills and tail feathers brownish-black; the quills have a white blotch on the inner webs forming a broad and striking wing band when in flight; bend of wing pale yellow; abdomen black, streaked with yellow and red down the centre and continued over the ventral region; thighs white, slightly tinged with pale brown; beak, legs and feet brownish-horn colour. Total length 4 inches, tail ⅞.

Adult female: Olive green, with the sides of the face and centre of abdomen washed with yellowish; throat yellowish-olive.

These Manakins appear to all be feeding on similar food, and it is very strange none have reached this country alive (There is a female at the Zoo in the Small Birds House at the present time. Ed.), I however hope that before the close of 1910 some few at least will have landed, as before this appears in print they will be on the way oversea. It is considered derogatory to the dignity of a white man to catch birds in Trinidad. I however was determined to have a try with nets I had carted over for the purpose and arranged with a nigger, who was an expert catcher to take me to his happy hunting grounds, and for a consideration Snowball consented. I accordingly arranged that he should hire a suitable conveyance, and call for me at 8 a.m. the following morning when I would be ready with all my tackle and food for the day, I gave details of the trip to my companion and he of course hoped I should have an enjoyable and successful day, but refused to accompany me. Precisely at 8 a.m. Snowball arrived with a donkey and cart, the poor old "moke" could walk, and no doubt a few years before could have raised a trot, but was now ready for an old age pension. I had so much chaff to put up with before starting that it was I assure you touch and go whether I went or not; however, after my friends had assembled and wished me all the luck I started, but did not ride. Snowball was very indignant and expressed his indignation in words more forcible than polite. We made for the high wooded land in the interior of the Island where I was assured birds were as thick as bees. There is always a crowd of natives loafing about, but this morning they were more numerous than usual. I took no notice of this until we were fairly on the way, they were following us, not only the men and boys, but women with children slung round their backs, and they stuck to us like leeches. We travelled about two miles in the hope of shaking them off, but no they were not going to miss seeing "White man catch birds." We made a halt and I am afraid I lost my temper. I threatened to shoot them if they did not turn back, and I thought I had got rid of them. We found a good place to set the nets, and I put out the call birds with the nets baited. Some of those ebony gentlemen however soon re-appeared on the scene and as more turned up got very cheeky and finally surrounded the nets, squatted down and refused to move. They had come a long way to see "White man catch birds" and were not to be done out of the fun. They shouted to me to catch the birds. "White man no catch birds?" "Massa no catch anything?" "Where all birds white man?" and such remarks. I left Snowball to pack up the nets and do what he liked with them, while I left in disgust. When I reached the Hotel again, I learned that my companion had spread the news amongst the niggers the previous night, that a white man with wonderful traps was about to start on a bird catching expedition and that it was worth quite a fortune to any catcher to obtain the secrets. This was my last attempt at catching.

To be continued.

How I Brought Home a Humming Bird.

By Chas. Harris.

Mr. Chas. Harris of De Von & Co., Ltd., has recently returned from the West Indies and among other rarities has successfully landed a Humming Bird. In response to my enquiry he has kindly sent me the following notes. Ed.

I procured this little mite in the West Indies from a Negro boy, who took it from the nest; I did not think it was possible to keep it alive, but I decided to try. I purchased some honey, and commenced feeding it with a straw; it was the smallest feathered mite I ever saw in my life. I got an Indian girl to make a basket cage for it, which was about the size of a Goose egg. It became quite happy in its new home, and after three or four weeks commenced to feed itself and grow a beautiful plumage of bright green, with a golden head and light breast. As it got older I thickened the honey, and it fed from a silver thimble, belonging to Mrs. Harris, which I tied to the perch to act as a food pot, It had learned to fly by the time we left Barbadoes, so I constructed a thin perch across my berth, where he spent his time, either sitting or flying about. It got to know my voice so well that when I entered my berth and spoke to my wife, it would call out incessantly until I fed it with honey, and it would lick the straw of honey with its long tongue, which was half the length of its body, until it was pacified. After we were seven or eight days at sea and had left the Tropics behind, it began to feel the cold very much, and I had to keep my electric light burning and the door closed all day. In the bay of Biscay we had very bad weather, cold, with very high seas running, he was confined to his little basket cage for warmth. When we reached the English Channel, the weather got so cold that my wife had to case his little house in flannel, nevertheless he still kept up and braved the rough passage as well as any passenger on board. We arrived in Southampton in the early morning of October 3rd. Our little treasure was then numb with cold, but, when we started off with the London boat-train I was pleased to see the sun shining, so my little bird sat on my finger, and I held him up to the window of the carriage all the way to get the full benefit of the sun, which gave him new life. We arrived in London quite safe, with our little bird looking stronger and happier than he was the day I first got him. He now has full wings, tail, and is in good plumage. Yesterday (Oct. 6th), I sold the little mite to Mr. Maxwell, the well-known exhibitor, who, I hope, will have great success with it, and trust he will exhibit it at the coming Palace Show. I may say, that besides my little novelty, I brought home 14 cases of birds, animals, and reptiles, among which were 100 Alligators, one mother Sloth and baby, one pair Jemmerson Lories, 100 rare Tanagers, Flycatchers, Sugar Birds, etc.; 20 various monkeys, including Black Marmozets, Spider Monkeys, Capuchin, etc.; one very large Iguana, several Snakes, Lizards, Land Crabs, Swamp Prones, Frogs, Toads, etc.: 40 Mongoose, 13 Scissor Birds, Canary-wing Parrakeets, and 40 large Amazon Parrots, and a host of other stock.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Indian Birds. -A key to the Common Birds of the Plains of India. By Douglas Dewar., I.C.S., etc. London, 1909. John Lane, 6s. net.

From the pen of our esteemed member has emanated yet another book on the birds of India, and this, his latest production, is certainly one of the best he has written, being a veritable *multum in parvo*, and though as the writer states in his preface—" The object of this book is to enable people interested in our Indian birds to identify at sight those they are likely to meet with in their compounds and during their excursions into the jungle,"--it will be equally useful and interesting to the aviculturist in this country, in defining such unknown Indian birds as may come into his possession; for, as the writer frankly states, the short descriptions are not from skins, but "*an attempt to depict the bird as it looks when perched in a tree or during flight.*" Thus these may differ a little from the text books, which are mostly descriptions of the skins of dead birds.

The plan of the work is both ingenious and original, and will specially commend itself to the aviculturist and field naturalist this will be indicated by the following table of contents:

PART I -A. Hindustani Names of Common Birds.
B. Classification According to Structural Pecularities.—
1, Bill; 2, Crest; 3, Legs; 4, Tail; 5, Sexual Dimorphism.

C. Classification According to Colour–

1, Black; 2, Blue, 3, Brown; 4, Coffee or Fawn Colour; 5, Green; 6, Grey 7, Pink; 8, Red; 9, White, 10, Yellow; 11, Birds of Many Colours.

D. Classification According to Habits—

1, Birds having remarkable cries; 2, Birds whose nests are likely to be found in any garden in the plains; 3, Birds that habitually sit on exposed perches! 4, Birds that go about in flocks; 5, Flight; 6, Feeding habits; 7, Birds which habitually carry the tail almost vertically.

PART II.—Descriptive List of the Common Birds of the Plains of India.

It will thus be seen that Part I. consists of a succession of keys, each very comprehensive and practical.—I can best Illustrate this by quoting the sub-divisions of one of the keys under classification according to colour.

I.—Black. (1a) All Black, (1b) Mainly Black, (2) Black-headed Birds, (3) Black collaret or gorget or band across the breast, 5a Black and blue 5b Black and brown (chestnut), 5c black and coffee or fawn colour, 5e Black and pink, 5f Black and red, 5g Black and white, 5h Black and yellow . . . . .

All the other keys are equally comprehensive and should prove a boon to those not having access to such works as the "Fauna of India," etc., and equally as to the possessors of these works, as a less cumbersome and more convenient means of reference for field work, or in aviary.

Part II. The Description List (231 species) equally commends itself to the reader by reason of its conciseness and utility. To illustrate this I will quote two of the descriptions of well known species:—

"78. *Sporæginthus formosa:* The Green Munia, or Green Waxbill. This beautiful little bird, which is barely two-thirds the size of the sparrow, is frequently caged. The upper plumage and wings are light green, brighter in the cock than in the hen; the tail is black, the lower parts are yellow, brighter in the cock thar in the hen. Bill bright red.

"79. *Sporæginthus amandava:* The Indian Red Munia, or Red Waxbill, or Lal, or Amadavat.

Every aviary in India boasts one or two amadavats. This is a tiny little bird with a bright red beak and red eyes. The general hue of the plumage is reddish brown with patches of the richest crimson and some tiny white spots. There is more crimson in the cock than in the hen, and in the former in the breeding season than at any other time of the year. But in both sexes there is always a patch of crimson on the lower rump. In full dress the cock has the whole head, upper plumage, breast, and sides of the body crimson. As, however, the wing feathers are brown, the little birds look brown and not crimson during flight. In order to perceive the crimson they must be watched when at rest in the sunlight.

They are lightly gregarious and are found all over India. In Burma this bird is replaced by an allied one *(S. flavidiventris)*, having the abdomen yellowish red instead of black. (Illus. G. B., frontispiece.)

We have nothing but commendation for this practical, interesting and invaluable aid to the identification of Indian birds and cordially commend it to our readers with the assurance that they will find it an exceedingly useful addition to their libraries.

Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in Cage and Aviary. Cassell and Co., in monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part VII.—Another good issue, which contains the completion of the chapter on "Plumage and Moulting," and one on "Moulting on Colour-food." The frontispiece is a charming coloured plate of hybrids, figuring Siskin, and Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Bullfinch; Greenfinch and Bullfinch; Redpoll and Goldfinch; and Linnet and Bullfinch; with the usual complement of photographic, line, and other illustrations in black and white.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Publications: We are asked to notice the following:

No. 70.—Winter Washing of Fruit Trees and the Treatment of Neglected Orchards.
„ 110.—Carriage of Goods by Rail at Owner's Risk Rates.
„ 207.—Strawberry Cultivation.
„ 227.—Swine Erysipelas.
„ 229.—The Breeding and Rearing of Turkeys.
„ 230.—Cucumber and Tomato Canker.
„ 234.—Leaf-shedding in conifers, due to *Botrytis cinera.*
„ 235.—The Organisation of the Milk Supply.
„ 237.—Redwater in Cattle. *(Bovine piroplasmosis).*
„ 238.—Leaf Diseases of Celery.

Copies of the above may be obtained free of charge, and post free on application to the Secretary, Board of Agriculture, and Fisheries, 4, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. Letters of applicants so addressed need not be stamped.

Zoological Gardens of the World. Compiled by Captain S. S. Flower, Zoological Gardens, Giza, Egypt.

This most useful reference list (dated September, 1910), compiled by our esteemed member, Captain S. S. Flower, is very comprehensive, and easy of reference, being arranged alphabetically under continents, and in Europe under countries. In most instances, date of foundation and Director or Proprietor are given thus:

Africa, Giza, Cairo, Egypt, 1891. Captain S. S. Flower, Director; Mr. M. Nichol, Assistant-Director.

Asia, Calcutta, India. 1875, Mr. B. Basu, Officiating Supt.

Australasia, Perth. 1898, Mr. E. A. Le Souëf, Director.

Europe, Belgium, Antwerp. 1843, M. M. L'Hoëst, Director.

British Isles: Edinburgh, founded about 1841, closed after 1858. A new one is now proposed.

London, Regent's Park, 1828, Dr. P. C. Mitchell, Secretary; Mr. R. I. Pocock, Superintendent.

London, Surrey Zoological Gardens, founded about 1831, closed 1856.

Copies may be obtained, we presume, from the compiler.

Editorial.

Nesting Notes: Taken on the whole, the season now almost closed has not been altogether unfruitful, though opening with but poor promise. To the results already announced in our pages we may add the following:

COMMON AMADAVAT *(Sporæginthus amandava)* x Zebra Waxbill *(S. subflavus)* Hybrids. In the aviary of our esteemed member, Dr. J. Easton Scott, a brood of this interesting cross has been successfully brought off, and they are now on on the wing, and quite independent of their parents. At present they are quite nondescript in their plumage, closely resembling the hen Amadavat, but smaller, and with a few faint undulations on the sides of the body. We shall hope to hear more of them later from Dr. Scott's pen. This is the first time this cross has been reared in this country.

CUBAN FINCHES *(Phonipara canora)*. One of the features of the season may be said to be the freedom with which this well known and beautiful species has been bred. In the aviaries of our esteemed members Mr. H. Willford, and Dr. J. Easton Scott, several broods have been reared from separate pairs. In Dr. Scott's aviaries one pair has two broods out of hand, and on September 20th, we saw their third brood of the season, only just hatched. Yet for many years this species was kept without any breeding result. Mr. R. Philips being we believe the first to achieve this success. The conclusion to be drawn is, we think, that in roomy *natural* aviaries success may be reasonably looked for, while under other conditions it is only occasional, and then mostly by a "happy fluke."

SOME INTERESTING RESULTS: In the aviary of our esteemed member, Mrs. Mahon, the following have been successfully reared to maturity: Shamas, Red-whiskered and White-cheeked Bulbuls. Regarding these successes Mrs. Mahon writes: "The Shamas are very careful parents; the cock prepares the food and gives it to the hen, who passes it to the young—but the chief difficulty I have had with the Shamas, has been, that although the cock is a most devout parent while the birds are young, he kills his sons when they are grown. He killed a perfect cock, a beautiful songster, a last year's bird, plucking every feather from its head a few weeks since. The Shamas allowed me to help to build the nest, and permitted me to assist them in feeding the young, both often standing by and watching me put the insect into the gaping mouth of their young, never exhibiting the least fear or anger. The Pekin Robins are very interesting to watch, the hen never leaves the nest till the cock comes and takes her place, and he sits till she returns. I lost the young Pekins owing to being away at the critical time—three or four days old—and the parents not getting regular supplies of live food. The Bulbuls built four nests, hatching out the two eggs laid each time and rearing the young.

The above notes are of great interest and we trust Mrs. Mahon will send us a full account of her successes, which are of permanent interest.

The Importation of Foreign Birds: To try and do something to lessen the loss among new arrivals, our esteemed Hon. Business Secretary, Mr. H. Willford, has been buying up various consignments of Tanagers on arrival at a certain port, and is retaining them in his large and hygienic aviaries and birdrooms till the critical period has passed—consequently the birds which will be sent out have a reasonable prospect of surviving and doing well. Of course, it will be obvious that Mr. Willford can only continue to do this if he receives the support of members, and those interested in Tanagers and Sugar Birds should write to him for a list, and thus assist him in his humane project. Mr. Willford is expecting a consignment of rare species to be privately brought over in the near future.

Green Singing Finches: Our esteemed member, Mr. H. W. Mathias, has a pair of these birds busily incubating a clutch of eggs, also a pair of Cordon Bleus engaged in a similar manner. This season has not been so successful with him as the past one. Mr. Matthias is also a successful carnation grower, and has had a very successful season at the various horticultural exhibitions this year, a leaflet of which is distributed with this issue. Members interested in carnations might do worse than send to him for a list.

UNCOMMON SPECIES: We have been asked to include a few brief descriptions of these. We shall hope to supplement the two following in future issues.

Dufresne's Waxbill: *(Coccopygia dufresni)* Top of head and nape, lead-grey; mantle yellowish-olive; barred with grey, lower back and upper tail coverts, orange-vermilion; wing, smoky-black; mostly with olive external edges; central tail feathers, black, others ashy brown; side of head, from just above eye, including cheeks, ear-coverts, chin and throat, intense black; this black area bordered with white, which merges into the pale greenish-buff of the under surface of body; upper mandible, black; lower, crimson; irides, rich red. Female lacks the black head marks of the male, otherwise very similar, but slightly duller.

Masked Firefinch: *(Lagonosticta larvata).* Slaty-grey on the upper surface, marked more or less with vinaceous-red; lower back, upper tail coverts, and margins of tail feathers, rich crimson-red; tail otherwise black; wings dusky, with the quills brown with ashy margins; sides of head, chin, and throat black; breast vinous-red, flanks marked with black-edged white spots; centre of breast, abdomen, thighs, vent and under-tail coverts black; beak, legs, and feet, grey.

Treat as Cordon Bleus and Common Firefinches.

Red-naped Lorikeets *(Trichoglossus rubritorques).* It will doubtless interest many readers, especially those unable to provide roomy aviaries for their birds, to hear that in one of the large cages inside the Zoo Parrot House a young bird of this species has been successfully reared. In plumage it exactly resembles its parents, though the various hues of its plumage lack the lustre of the adult bird. This is the first occasion on which this species has been successfully bred in Great Britain, though hybrids have been reared between this species and Forsten's Lorikeet.

Correspondence.

HOMING BIRDS.

Sir, I thought the following might perhaps interest members. In a large garden aviary I have Pekin Robins, Budgerigars, Madagascar Love Birds, Zebra Finches, Golden-breasts, Common Waxbills, Cut-throats, a White Java Sparrow, a Grey Singing Finch, and a Bulbul. During the fearful gale of last night (Aug. 28), the door of the aviary was blown open; when I visited it at 7-30, the aviary was tenantless except for a few pairs of Budgerigars who were nesting. I left the aviary door open, and also placed near a cage containing food and water. During the day the birds returned in small parties at different times, and at 4 o'clock there were only two birds missing the White Java Sparrow and a Budgerigar. I think it was wonderfully clever of the birds to find their way back, as some of them were absent from the aviary five or six hours, and were not visible anywhere in its neighbourhood. (Lady) EVELINE WALDEN.

NESTLING PLUMAGE OF STELLA'S LORIES.

Sir,—I have made a close examination of the young Stella Lory from nest No. 2, and I find that this bird has far more yellow on the back than the young bird from nest No. 1. The young bird No. 2 is practically identical in colour with a mature hen; from this I gather that a young hen leaves the nest in nearly adult plumage, while the young cock shows yellow mottlings amongst the red. I think this observation should be placed on record for I see in Mivart, that according to Dr. Sharpe, "the young resemble the male, and like it, have a crimson brown back." The same author, quoting Salvadori, says: "The young male . . . . . . and the back yellow with more or less red."

You will see from this that Dr. Sharpe was obviously at fault, for he makes no mention of yellow feathers at all. Salvadori may be right, for it is possible that the young birds from different nests vary in the amount of yellow they have. I will presently isolate these two young birds, and by next month we shall see whether my supposition is correct, viz.: that the young male has the brown back mottled with yellow, while the young hen is nearly, if not quite, as yellow as the mature female. E. J. BROOK.

P.S.—The new young Black Lory is doing well.

GOULDIAN FINCHES IN ABNORMAL PLUMAGE.

Sir, -It may interest Miss Bruce to know that last year I had an exactly similar experience to her own, but, with a Black-headed Gouldian ♂. This year this bird has gone back to the normal plumage, except that the feathers round the vent and of the under tail coverts are grey in place of white E. J. BROWN.

NOTES OF THE BIRDS IN MY AVIARY AND GROUNDS.

Sir,—In small lean-to aviary canaries (yellow, green, and mottled), with some Zebra Finches have been nesting busily all the season, though with only moderate results. Numbers of eggs were laid in nests and also dropped on the floors, but comparatively few were hatched. It seems to have been a bad season in that respect in aviaries, and also amongst poultry, complaints of infertile eggs have been noted from many places, both in England and Ireland. A few of my young birds were killed and half eaten by mice, which are a great pest, and almost impossible to guard against.* I have now five young Zebra Finches from two pairs of old ones, and several Canaries all healthy, strong birds, brought up on the old-fashioned egg and bread-crumb diet.

In the grounds and garden the small birds are beginning to be seen and heard again after what seemed to me, a particularly long, silent, and still month (August), in bird life—none were to be seen, with the exception of the swallow tribe, which were unusually numerous, and an occasional Robin or two. Now, the latter's notes, cheerful, though suggestive of autumn, make themselves heard in the early morning, accompanied occasionally by the Wren, with its curious sharp treble Coal, and Tom-tits show themselves, flitting from tree to tree and singing on the boughs, head downwards in search of insects, in their wonted gay and joyous fashion, and welcome at all seasons of the year.

(Hon. Mrs.) SOMERSET WARD.

ZOO GATHERINGS.

Sir,—A short account of our recent meeting at the Zoological Gardens may prove of interest. The last (unfortunately) of these gatherings took place, as arranged, on Saturday afternoon, September 17th, our rendezvous being, as before, the Small Birds' House, and the time, 2-30 p.m. As on previous occasions, several members travelled from a distance, and although the number was not as large as one would like, it is the forerunner of what should prove to be in the future a strong attraction for recruits to our fascinating hobby.

The contents of the Small Birds' House came first under our notice, and although few new species were seen, a considerable time was spent here. The new aviaries in the centre called forth expressions of approval on all sides, but would, I am sure, be of greater interest if the collection of small seed-eating birds was more varied, the majority of the birds in this particular aviary being Red Avadavats. Our old friend the Mynah was interviewed, but in spite of the attention given to him by several ladies, he said nothing, and probably, as no mealworms were forthcoming, did a fair amount of thinking.

As time was limited, a start was made for the Western Aviaries, and here the company divided, one section in charge of our esteemed Treasurer, the other under the guidance of the

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*It should be possible to poison these off with the Danzig Virus without detriment to the birds.—Ed.

Editor. Commencing at opposite ends, a tour was made through the aviaries; many of the occupants were far in the moult. Passing mention may be made of a party of Blue Robins; the colour of these birds being exceptionally fine, and it is unfortunate that this delightful species should be so difficult to procure. At the meeting of both parties in the centre of the aviaries, attention was directed to the Kagu, whose peculiar display created a considerable fund of amusement.

At the kind invitation of Mr. Page, an adjournment was made for tea, served at the Fellows' Pavilion, numerous reminiscences and ideas were exchanged over the cups, the time passing only too quickly.

A visit to the Parrot House concluded the proceedings. An interesting occurrence here was the appearance of a young Red-naped Lorikeet, * which apparently had only left the nest a few days. It is particularly encouraging to note this bird as they have but very little seclusion here as compared with a private aviary, and as several pairs of the gorgeous species have been on the market recently we should hear more of them in future. Our attention was also called to the very rare Guilding's Amazon of which three specimens were to be seen. As it was drawing near closing time we made our way toward the exit, much regretting this was the last official visit for the season, but I believe our untiring Editor has several schemes in view for the future, which, I am sure, will receive the enthusiastic support of all members. R. J. WATTS.

GREEN FOOD AND LONGEVITY.

SIR,—Re the remarks on green food in our last issue, I have in an indoor aviary along with a few Britishers, Cock Madagascar, Napoleon, Half-masked, and Red-billed Weavers. When in season I give the British birds a few garden peas. I found the weavers also very fond of the peas, they would snap one up and fly with it to the top of the aviary, hold it with their claws, and bite bits off with evident relish.

I would also like to remark on the good age attained by a cock Napoleon Weaver, which I gave to a friend fifteen years since, this being the first foreigner I had, but at that time did not know what it was. It is in good health, and condition, and looks like running yet another fifteen years.

I am told it is very partial to a bit of cooked rabbit or fowl, this being equivalent, I suppose, to mealworms, etc.

R. E. SIMPSON.

CROSS MATING OF ROSELLA x ROSEATE COCKATOO.

SIR,—I send a short account of what, I think, is an interesting occurrence in my out-door aviary.

I have had for two or three years a pair of Rosella Parra-

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* The first of this species to be bred in Great Britain.—Ed.

keets. The cock, a particularly fine bird, was taken from a wild nest, near Melbourne. He is tame enough to come on my head, but resents being handled. The hen Rosella has laid eggs, but they have never hatched.

This Spring, I bought an Australian Grey Parrot with pink breast *(Roseate Cockatoo.*—Ed.*)*

Rob (the cock Rosella) soon shewed a great interest in the new-comer, and in May, to my great surprise, he frequently fed the Grey Parrot.

After a time the Grey laid two large eggs (size of pigeon's), but sat very irregularly, and the eggs did not hatch. On investigation later I found that one of the eggs was fertile. All the Summer the friendship between these two birds continued, Rob always sitting near his chosen companion. The Rosella hen did not show any resentment to her rival.

Lately the grey bird began to moult and was ill and very mopy, sitting with head under her wing.

I gave Parrish's chemical food which the parrot allowed me to put into her beak, but sometimes she screamed and then Rob would come bustling up and peck my hands, which I took care to protect with gloves. Rob would sit and look at the parrot in the saddest way, always close at hand to keep off other birds. Last Tuesday the poor Grey lady was dead when I went into the aviary; as soon as I went near, Rob flew to her, and placing his foot on her outstretched wing, seemed to defy me to take her away. All the time I was tidying up and feeding the other birds Rob remained on guard, it was most pathetic to see him. Later in the day, with my incredulous family looking on, I again attempted to remove the dead bird, and again Rob put his foot on her and looked fiercely at me. However with my gloved hand I pushed him away, and caried off the dear departed Grey. But Rob has not forgotten or forgiven, and flies at me ferociously whenever I go into the aviary.

Is not this a very unusual occurrence? The mating of two different species of parrot (there being a hen Rosella present), and various other varieties of birds. If I get another hen Pink-breasted Parrot, will Rob be likely to act in the same way ?

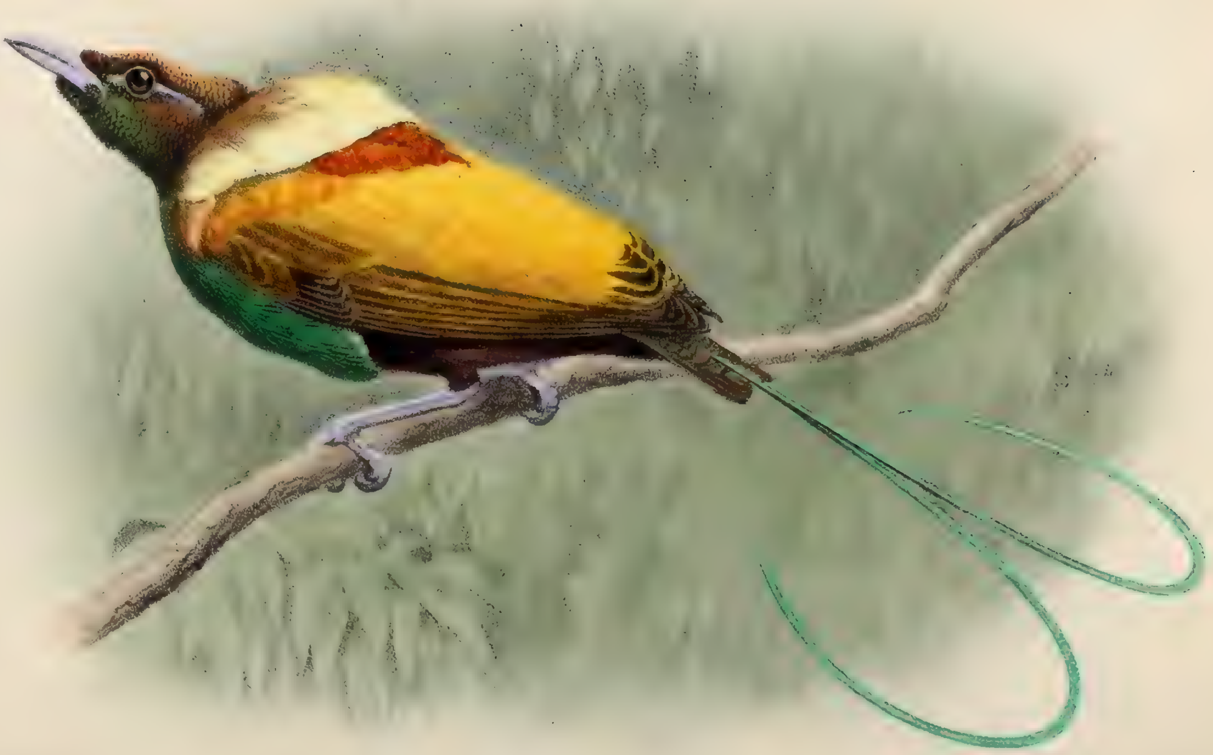
(Mrs.) B. CROYSDALE.

[I should say the Rosella (♀) was lacking in vigour, hence "Rob's" choice, which will, in all probability, be repeated if you procure another Roseate hen.—Ed.]

Some Correspondence unavoidably held over owing to pressure on our space.—Ed.

Post-Mortem Reports.

None to hand at time of going to press.



H Goodchild, del et lith.

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HUNSTEIN'S BIRD OF PARADISE.

Diphyllodes hunsteini.

From a living specimen in the possession of O Millsum Esq^re

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Hunstein's Magnificent Bird of Paradise.

(Diphyllodes magnifica)

BY O. MILLSUM

It is with no difficulty that I recall the flutter and excitement I experienced when I received the offer of a Hunstein's, To possess a bird of Paradise was the one great " birdy " event I desired. They, in common with any other unique species, appeal to me with such force, that when the opportunity arises for me to secure a rarity, I feel such unbounded pleasure, that for the brief space of a few moments I cannot restrain myself -feel ready to bustle anyone jovially about who may be at the time within my presence. Just these feelings, only more accentuated, took possession of me when the subject of our frontispiece was likely to become mine. Our worthy Editor has reason, I believe, to understand those feelings, for as it happened, I had the pleasure of his company during this particular week-end, and he was the unexpected and much surprised individual upon whom I then vented my feelings.

The bird was secured, and at the L.C.B.A. and Crystal Palace Shows of last year took premier honours. The credit for its condition and health was at that time due to that skilful lady aviculturist, Mrs. Johnstone, from whose aviaries I had the opportunity of securing this handsome, but restless creature, for try as I would, by every means possible, during the past year to steady him, I find it quite impossible to do so, and he remains very little steadier than the day he left the aviary. He has, however, fully and cleanly moulted during the past season, and is now as perfect as, I should say, a wild specimen, the richness, purity, and depth of the hues of his silken plumage being unsurpassable.

It is no news to my readers to know the change I willingly made in my life's course. From the multitudinous details of modern competitive commerce, I have undertaken the welfare of birds I love so much. These belong to R. Pauvvels, Esq., a fellow member of our society, whose birds and aviaries will be heard of later, for Everberg aviaries are destined to become well known both in England and on the Continent. Immediately I had decided to join Mr. Pauvvels, the Hunstein's, the subject of this article—was transferred to his unique collection, and very soon a mate was found for him. Both are now in superb condition and health, and next year I hope to attempt to secure for Mr. Pauvvels the coveted honour of breeding them. It may be a fruitless effort, but one never knows! It is the unexpected that frequently happens in aviculture, and to devote one's life entirely to it calls for a philosophic spirit, for disappointments are numerous, whilst anxiety for the birds' welfare is never absent.

To-day, Everberg aviaries boast six species of Birds of Paradise, comprising fifteen specimens, and to say that Mr. Pauvvels only really commenced his huge collection of foreign birds within the last eighteen months (although being a fancier from boyhood), is to give some faint idea of the enthusiastic avicultural spirit he possesses. The collection, numbering at this date over 400 specimens, many, I may say mostly, uncommon and unique. Within such a short period to secure six species of Birds of Paradise, is, most of my readers will admit, no small achievement.

I find no difficulty in treating the *Paradiseidæ*—and except a short (but nevertheless dangerous period while it lasted) illness of the Hunstein's, I have not had an ailing specimen among them. My method of feeding is regular, nevertheless as varied as possible: Morning: I give the necessary supply of "Stamin" my insectile mixture. This is generally mixed in the ordinary way—making it crumbly moist, with boiling water. Another method is to place "Stamin" dry in the mixing pot, add a sufficiency of boiled Potatoes and Carrots, which have been boiled in their skins, and put through a mincing machine, then thoroughly mix this with the "Stamin"—quite sufficient moisture is contained in the vegetables—after a very thorough mixing with a fork—pass it through the hands to ensure the vegetables being properly incorporated with the "Stamin," then add a good quantity of

Currants or Sultanas—again well mix and it is ready for the birds. This is the morning meal. Nothing further is given until the evening, unless may be some green food. I find Paradise Birds very fond of lettuce. The evening meal consists of fruits and mealworms. The fruit I vary as much as possible, but usually it consists of one or more of the following —Currants, Sultanas, Raisins, Grapes, Bananas, Apples or Pears. The three former are scalded and cleansed before being supplied to the birds—this is absolutely necessary, as however good the quality of Dried Fruit one may procure, there is always a certain amount of dirt and dressing adhering which must be removed, or the result of such particles of accumulated matter, entering the intestines of such frail creatures may cause serious illness and possibly many deaths, besides the act of scalding and cleansing brings the fruit to a more enjoyable and nutritious condition. You may think this a great trouble. All I can say is "trouble" vanishes if you have a real love for your birds. I find myself rarely free from them—they need all the attention one can give.

Birds of Paradise stand climatic changes wonderfully well. The Hunstein's have not had the slightest artificial heat since being under my care. However, as the large birdroom here is fitted with hot water pipes, and most of the other Paradise Birds are caged there, with varied specimens of other birds, they get a little warmth, and it suits them equally well. I must admit this is more comfortable for all concerned.

Most of our members know my lust for exhibiting, a desire arising from thinking that unique and beautiful birds should be seen on the show bench for the benefit of the public generally, and no doubt stimulating many others to an interest in tropical bird life and to associate themselves with aviculture; further, all fanciers are keenly interested in Nature's productions from other climates. This desire of mine, is, to some extent, shared by Mr. Pauvvels, and no doubt, occasionally a few specimens from the Everberg aviaries or Darwin's Dovecote which I have, personally, christened our homestead, will be seen on the English bench.

No description of mine is necessary to describe the Hunstein's, for the accompanying plate gives all necessary details. Before I left Swindon, Mr. Goodchild spent a few days with me, sketching with that inimitable skill of his, various specimens of mine which were then about to be transferred to Mr. Pauvvels, amongst which, and the most important, was the Hunstein's; our frontispiece being yet another example of his faithful work. Personally I shall never forget the swiftness and accuracy of his pencil, as he sketched the bird as it fled from perch to perch in its large aviary-cage.

I have before mentioned its unsteadiness: it is not so with all the species of this richly endowed group. We have here, Kings and Apodas, quite steady and tame, in fact, one would think they had never been free, so kindly do they take to cage life. I have always found that in all varieties of birds, one comes across individual specimens that never become tame, and yet thrive wonderfully in captivity; the reason is obvious—nervousness. It is the same with genus *Homo* dispositions and nervous temperament vary considerably.

Our esteemed member, Mr. H. D. Astley, writing in the 'Avicultural Magazine" concerning this genus, quoting the experience of our esteemed member Mr. W. Goodfellow, who has been responsible for the collection and importation of so many rare species of Birds of Paradise; states:

"A very interesting fact with regard to the habits of "these birds is that the males select some small tree, from which "they strip all the leaves, carrying them away, and permit-"ting no refuse around their playground. On the bared branches "the males display and dance, so that all their beauty can be seen. "Mr. Goodfellow threw some leaves down upon the space that "they had cleared beneath the sapling, and the birds with cries of "indignation removed the offending obstacles."—Ed.

By E. J. Brook.

[Our esteemed member has kindly sent me at very short notice, the following interesting notes as to the demeanour of this grand species in his aviary.—Ed.]

In the aviary I find the Hunstein's Bird of Paradise to be rather uninteresting, any way the mature males are. They sit almost without movement, the bill pointing upwards, for long periods. They rarely show themselves in the open but remain in the inner part of the aviary or hidden in a bush. The females and young males are lively enough and do not seem to mind showing themselves. This is rather curious but, is I think a provision of nature. May it not be

Painted Finches.

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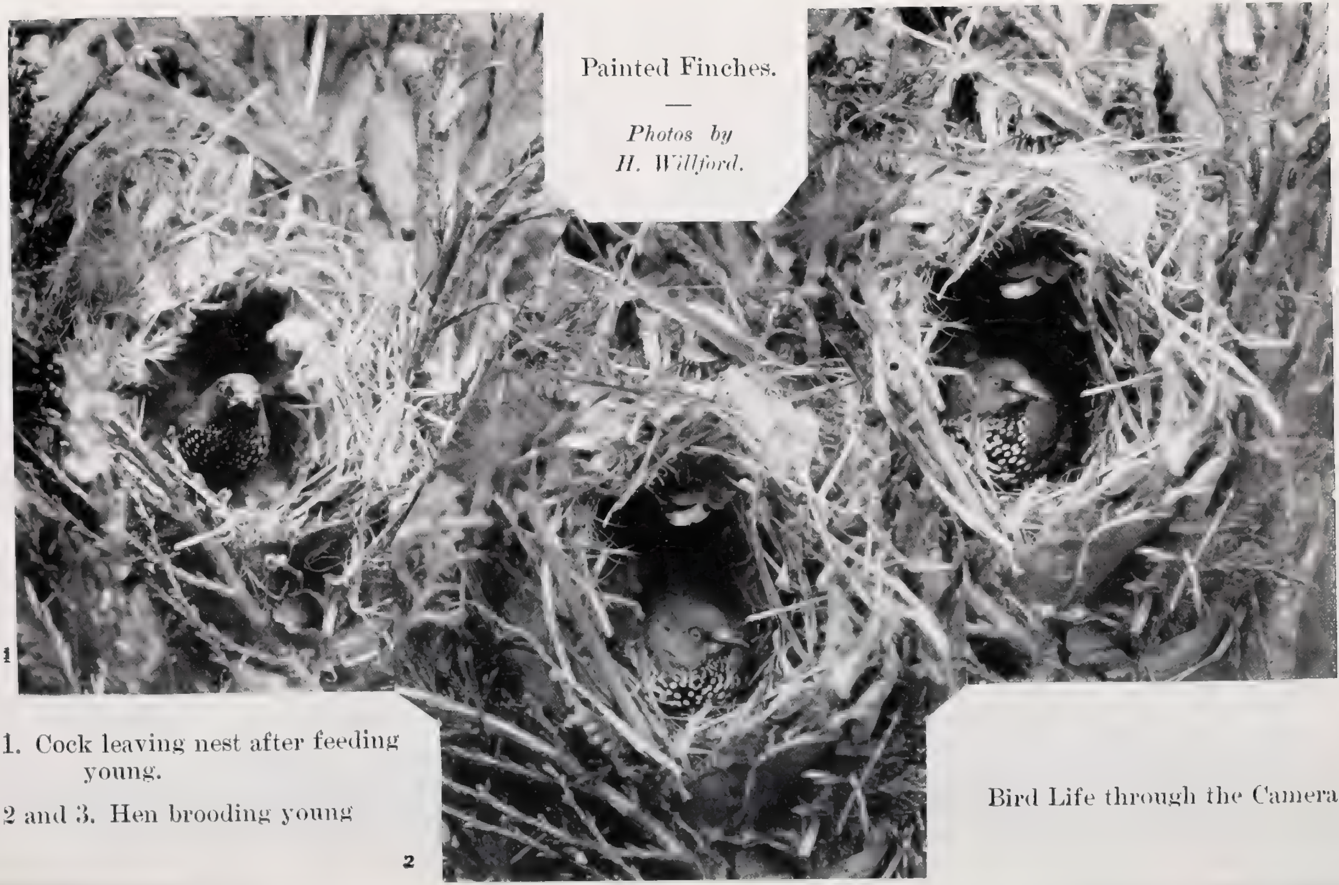
Photos by
H. Willford.



1. Cock leaving nest after feeding young.

2 and 3. Hen brooding young

Bird Life through the Camera.

that the hens and young males being of an inconspicuous colour are not afraid of showing themselves but, when the males assume adult plumage they keep still to avoid observation. The colouration of the adults rather bears out this theory, observe one of these birds from below. the dark green breast is very like a vine or other leaf in shape and the tail wires, looking like tendrils, add to the resemblance. Again look at the back of the bird and I think one would be at once struck by the resemblance to the end of a shaft of bright sunlight penetrating the jungle and shining on a leaf in the undergrowth. The Hunstein's are rather voracious feeders and scatter the food about a great deal, also they are great bathers. They seem harmless and I have never seen them offer to fight. The display is curious but I have rarely seen it for the birds are very shy, it consists chiefly in expanding the breast feathers laterally with quick jerks.

Bird Life Through the Camera.

By H. Willford.

(Continued from page 276).

Painted Finches *(Emblema picta)*: The supplementary photos of this species, illustrating these notes, will I hope not be out of place, for apart from any other value, they convey to those who have not bred any of the Foreign Grassfinches in their aviaries, a perfect idea of the nature of site, manner in which all these birds build, demeanour, etc., under the conditions of aviary life and incidentally also, open out to us in some measure, somewhat of their life history in their native haunts—as those who have been fortunate enough to have them go to nest will be able to testify.

We have in all the pictures the typical domed nest, constructed of hay or dried grasses and lined with feathers or other soft material, and we may reasonably conclude that the nests they build in their native wilds are very similar, although I believe they then choose very thick set thorny bushes as a site for their nest, as these afford them some protection from any lurking danger common to their native wilds, during the periods of incubation and while rearing their progeny.

In captivity Grassfinches seem very variable as to their choice of a nesting site, sometimes a grass bank is chosen, at others some ornamental shrub, as with my Painted Finches—even Laurels are not despised, and these are by far the safest, owing to the protection afforded during heavy rains by their large leaves. A pair of Rufous-tailed Grassfinches built and reared a fine brood this year, in the top of a large Laurel, but unfortunately it was out of reach of the camera.

At the time these photos. (Nos. 1. 2. 3. and 4) were taken the parent birds were brooding four young--both parents taking part therein and also in the task of feeding their young: for instance, while the hen was brooding the cock would be taking in a supply of spray millet (this being their chief food when rearing young), and as soon as he flew to the nest, away went the hen, whose place he would take, until such time as she returned with a further supply of food—the period being from ten to fifteen minutes.

In the photos of the cock bird, it will be noticed that the tip of the beak is white; this is caused by some of the regurgitated millet adhering to it after the process of feeding.

The feeding of the young for the first few days, was done whilst brooding, the parent birds after settling down would place their beaks under their feathers and apparently feed by feeling the mouths of the young—this leads me to believe that perhaps after all, the luminous spots are only a coincidence and not a guide to the parents in feeding in the dark.

A very interesting feature of their nesting operations was the manner in which the male bird looked after the welfare of his family—sometimes the hen would leave her young for a fly round the aviary, when immediately her "lord and master" would start driving her to the nest, not desisting from chasing her about till she settled near the nest, when he would suddenly pop in himself and after much calling and coaxing would persuade her to follow, when being apparently satisfied he would fly off.

DIAMOND DOVE *(Geopelia cuneata)*: No further com-

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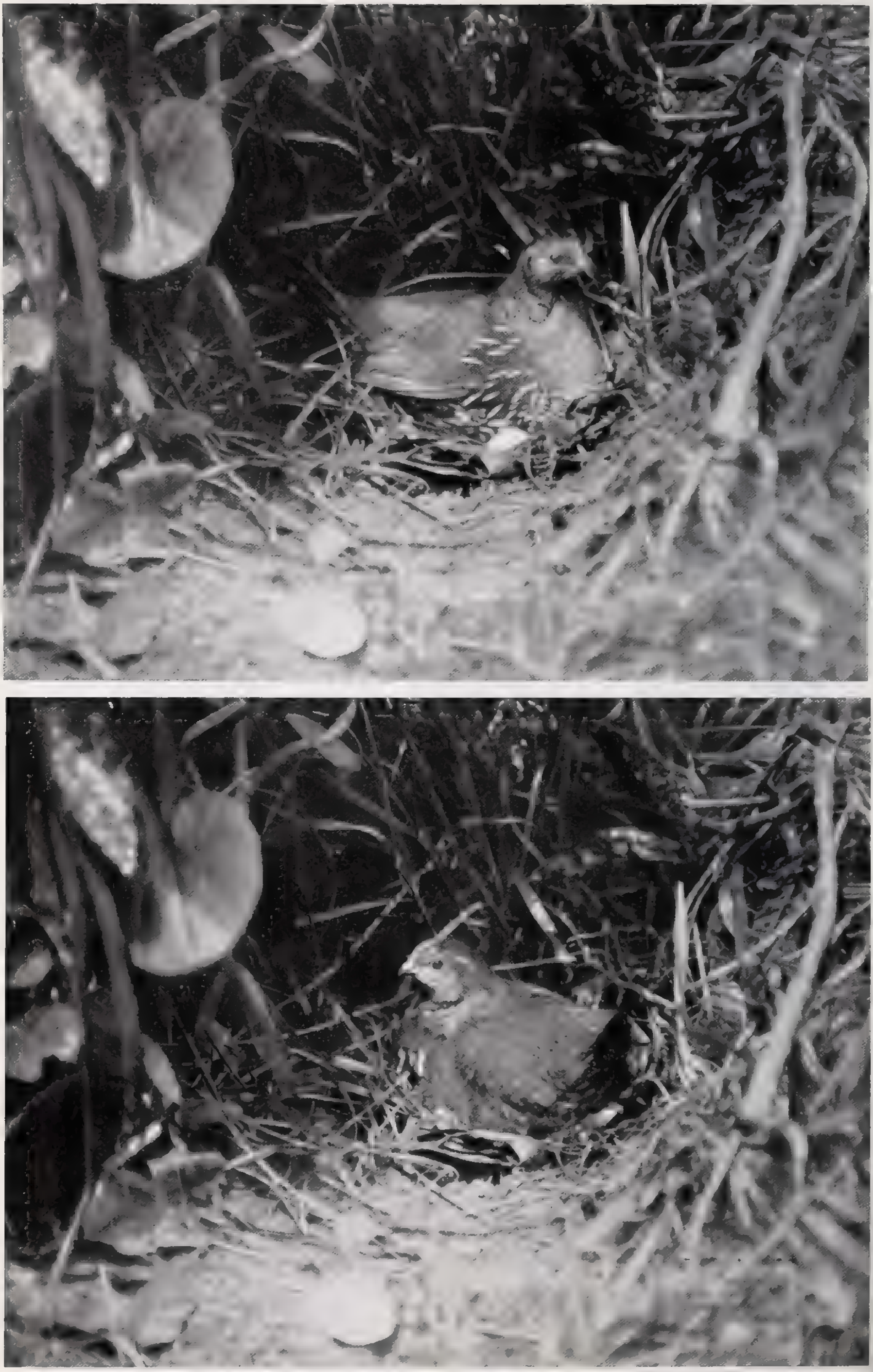
Photos by H. Willford

4. Diamond Dove ♀ on nest.
5. Painted Finch, cock calling hen to nest.

Bird Life through the Camera.



Californian Crested Quails. *Photos by H. Willford.*

Bird Life through the Camera.

ment is called for here, but the additional photo is introduced at it gives a much better and clearer idea of the markings and of the bird generally than the one produced in our last issue.

Californian Quail *(Lophortyx californicus).* Our last photos for this issue figure this handsome species brooding several chicks—they were rather more nervous of my hiding tent that the finches appeared to be.

I only discovered the nest just as the eggs were chipping, so had to get the best result I could with such little time for preparation.

They are very easy to cater for, feeding principally on canary and millet seeds, and no doubt picking over the soft food placed there for the other birds and capturing many insects.

The nest is merely a hollow scraped out at the root of a bush or in coarse grass, and the eggs deposited therein. This appears to be common to all the Quails—they lay a prodigious number of eggs if some are removed, but I do not consider this advisable—I certainly have found the young thrive much better if left with their natural parents, than when the eggs are placed under Bantams, etc. and so reared.

The young thrive well on any fine ground biscuit and meat meal and soon pick up seed—custard is also very useful in bringing these birds on.

I have seen the male assist the hen in brooding the chicks, and he always takes a deal of interest in the doings of the hen and her progeny.

Description: *Adult male.* The crest is black and formed of club-shaped feathers; throat and cheeks black margined with white; eyebrow stripes white; sides and back of neck, mantle, chest and tail grey, which on the neck is margined with black and spotted with white ; lower back, rump, and wings, greyish olive-brown; breast buff, merging into bright chestnut on the abdomen, and margined with black; sides of body greyish-olive. Total length $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches, tail $3\frac{5}{8}$.

Adult female: The crest is shorter and browner; there are no black and white head markings; throat white with dark shaft streaks; neck, mantle and breast greyish-brown; the under parts are white, slightly washed with buff on the abdomen, and strongly so with brown on the sides of body and flanks. A little smaller than the male.

Habitat: Its natural range is the Western States of N. America, extending north to Washington, south to Cape St. Lucia, Lower California, and eastward to Nevada. It has, however, been introduced into several countries.

Wild life: The following notes are compiled from the records of several traveller naturalists and various field notes. They favour undergrowth and thickets, near or alongside water-courses, bush-covered hillsides and ravines, and also frequent the roads, cultivated land, vineyards, and edges of clearings to feed. They mate in March or a little earlier, according to season, and the flocks of the winter gradually break up into pairs. In localities where it is not harrassed and hunted, it becomes very tame, in fact almost domesticated, and nests close to houses and outbuildings, and in garden shrubberies. Mostly only one brood is raised, but at times two, in the latter case the male takes entire charge of the first brood when they are about three weeks old, the hen then laying and incubating her second clutch. In the fall, when family cares are over, they assemble in large packs.

Food: Seeds and insects.

Nest: Merely a slight hollow scratched in the ground, and slightly lined—the position varies greatly—under the shelter of a rock, a log, small bush, tufts of grass or weed are the more usual, but nests have been found in the open, and also in the forked branches of trees

Eggs: The clutch is very variable, usually from twelve to sixteen, but as many as twenty-four have been found in a nest. The eggs are variable as to colour, being greyish or yellowish-white, spotted and dusted with various hues of brown.

The only other species of Quail I have bred are Chinese Painted, Pectoral, and Common, which did well and thrived on the same treatment as given to the Californians.

To be Continued.

Nesting of the Argoondah Quail (*Perdicula argoondah*) and White-cheeked Crested Quail (*Eupsychortyx leucopogon*).

By W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Our Editor tells me that he has had a request for an article on breeding Quails, so it has occurred to me that I might combine some notes on this subject with some account of the nesting of the above two species in my aviaries during the past season. The subject of the management of birds is one that I always approach with great caution for two reasons: in the first place aviculturists, as a class, are so remarkably, so painfully "touchy" that, if one ventures to differ from their expressed views, the result is frequently a passage of arms, and, secondly, individual birds and individual aviaries differ so greatly that treatment which answers well in one case is often a complete failure in another. Further, with regard to this particular subject, my experience is not sufficient to enable me to speak with confidence, so I have decided to set down here the views of a more experienced aviarist than myself and supplement them with one or two suggestions.

Quite the best article on the subject of breeding Quails that I have yet come across is one by Mr. D. Seth Smith, which appeared in the *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. v. (N.S.), p. 30. I will consider the advice given *seriatim*.

I. In the first place the writer tells us that Quails should have a fairly large run, well turfed and with some covert, part of which should be roofed over and sanded to provide a place for scratching. I may mention that I have rooted up the turf in my own aviaries, leaving a few patches here and there for nesting, because I find that the grass grows so rank in the summer that no birds can penetrate it unless one is continually cutting it short.

II. Secondly, that it is not necessary that each pair should have a separate aviary: Mr. Seth Smith tells us that in an enclosure measuring 42 feet x 21 feet no less than three pairs reared young in one season. It should be mentioned, however, that in this article he refers chiefly to Quails of the genus *Coturnix* and it is significant that the latter have no spurs. Many -indeed most—of the Quails are born fighters and one would be lucky, I think, if one as a rule bred more than one species in one enclosure.

III. The association of two females with one male answers well.

IV. If there is only one female, remove the male after incubation has commenced because he may worry the female. I have found the male very useful: he will protect the nest from other birds, brood the young, find insects for the young, brood the weakly young whilst the hen takes the strong ones out foraging or vice versa and, should the female die, he will rear the young single-handed.

V. When the young are hatched, drive the female and young into a run 6 feet x 4 feet, boarded all round, with one end to open and part of top removable for feeding, and cover part of top with brushwood: the run must be placed on a level piece of grass. I have no doubt that this method would answer very well in cases where the adults are thoroughly tame and steady, but it must be remembered that many species are naturally and constitutionally wild, and nothing will ever make them tame. I tried Mr. Seth Smith's method with my Crested Quails in 1909 and this is what happened. The adults were brooding the young very closely when we commenced to drive them towards the run but, as soon as they saw that we intended to move them, they dashed away, kicking the young over right and left, took wing and hurled themselves like feathered bombs against the far end of the netting. The young in the mean time scattered and hid in the thickest of the grass. However, we netted the adults and incarcerated them in the run, leaving them for half an hour to simmer down; we then caught the young one by one and took them in to warm at the kitchen fire. We then cautiously introduced them into the run, but the result was not what we had hoped. The adults tore madly up and down the run trampling the young underfoot and leaping up wildly against the netting and, had we not instantly removed the young, they would have been all dead in a very few moments.

I think the above method would answer excellently when the adults are steady indeed it is the one which would first suggest itself. The only other suggestion that occurs to me is that some waterproof material would be better than brushwood for a covering, because Quails, when newly hatched, are the most tender little things imaginable and a very few moments exposure to wet or cold will be enough to kill an entire brood.

V. Feed on fresh ant-pupæ (or, in default, small gentles) with a soft food consisting of hard-boiled egg, bread-crumbs, dried ant-pupæ and crissel. They may be reared on soft food and seed alone. Egg, as we all know, is used by many persons with complete success (and Mr. Seth Smith is evidently one of them, for he tells us that he has never lost a single young Quail after getting them safely enclosed in the run) but what I should expect to happen, if I used it, would be that the parents would scatter it with their powerful feet over the whole floor, that it would remain there until stale, that the young would then pick it up and that one would lose the lot. I have not used egg myself since one memorable occasion when I lost fifteen (out of sixteen) young canaries in a single day.

VII. Turn the mother and young out into the aviary again at the age of fourteen days.

The above useful advice relates of course to breeding operations conducted in the summer, but with the two species, of which, I am writing to-day, I had the unusual experience of having to attempt rearing the young in mid-winter and in late autumn, which is not by any means so simple a matter.

THE ARGOONDAH QUAIL.

We will first consider the Argoondah Quail. I gave some account of my old pair in *Bird Notes* (November,'09.) under the heading "The Month's Arrivals." This is an Indian species, belonging to the genus *Perdicula*—the latter having twelve tail feathers, less than half the length of the wing, the tarsus of the male provided with a blunt spur and the plumage of the sexes being different. The male Argoondah is 6½ inches in length, has a white breast handsomely barred with black, a brick-red throat and flights barred on the inner and outer webs with rufous. I find that this characteristic applies only to quite adult specimens. This particular male when he came into my possession had only a few of the primaries barred (all the secondaries were barred) and, when I parted with him in August, '10, the 7th, 8th and 9th primaries were still only spotted with rufous. The female has the throat white, the under parts dull buff and the back beautifully mottled with dark grey. The Argoondah Quail is closely related to the Jungle Bush Quail *(P. asiatica)* but prefers open, dry, rocky country. It is used by the natives for fighting purposes and is not esteemed as a table delicacy.

I kept this pair in a small heated aviary in a corner of which I placed a few tussocks of dead grass. The male soon scraped out a hollow under one of these and the female commenced to lay in the last week of December. She took nearly a fortnight to lay the full clutch of six eggs, the last being laid on the 10th January, on the afternoon of which day she commenced to sit. The male would often squat beside the female but never incubated the eggs himself. On the 31st of January—a morning when the ground was a sheet of ice and the thermometer recorded nine degrees of frost—six little Argoondahs were hatched after an incubation period of almost 21 days (Mr. Seth Smith gives 16 to 19 days for *Coturnix*). So tiny were they that they could pass easily through half-inch netting. They were a rich brown on the back and head, with dull buff under parts, and did not show the central dorsal stripe so characteristic of the young of many gallinaceous birds.

We should have had nothing for them but soft-food but for the kindness of our member Mr. Suggitt, who was good enough to send me some small gentles which he had preserved in wet sand, and which were simply invaluable. On the 6th the quill feathers of the wings could be seen. On the 10th (seven degrees of frost in the night) buff spots began to appear on the wings and the youngsters began to use the latter appendages: these spots grew more and more conspicuous, especially with scapulars, until they formed a parallel series of markings down the sides of the back. On the 16th the adults were pairing again, but they did not desert the young. On the 21st a dark line could be distinguished on the sides of the crown above the eyebrow stripe: the breast became striped and the buff spots on the wings more triangular. On the 23rd, the female

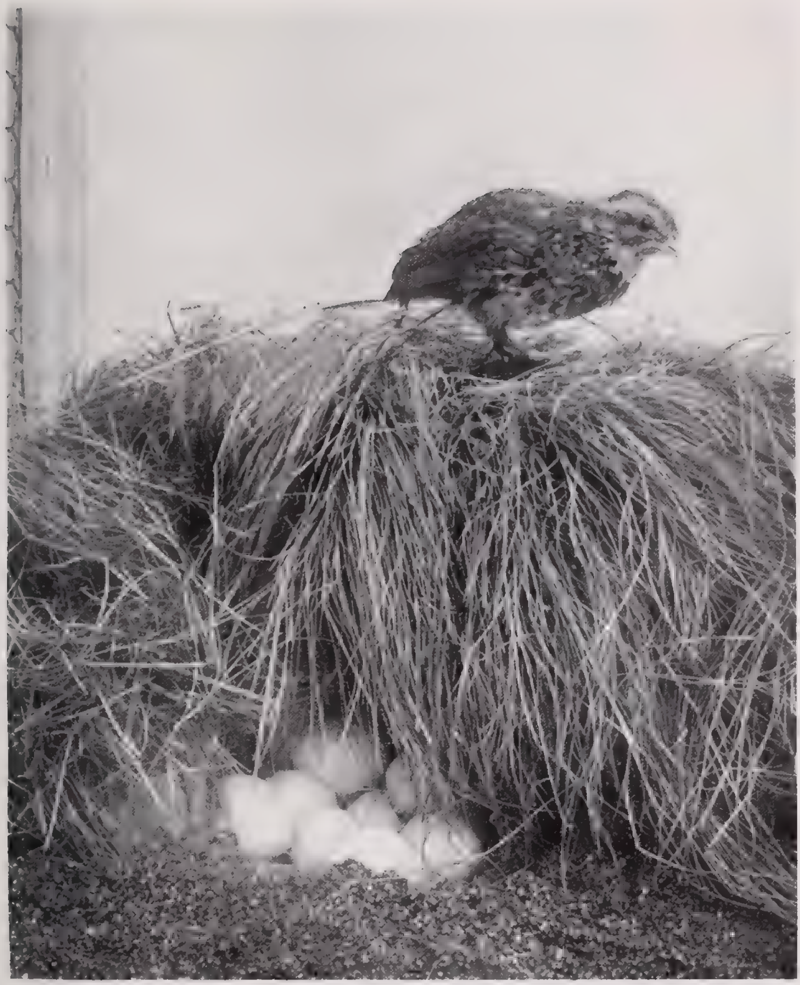


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Argoondah Quail.
Eggs and Young. (one month old).

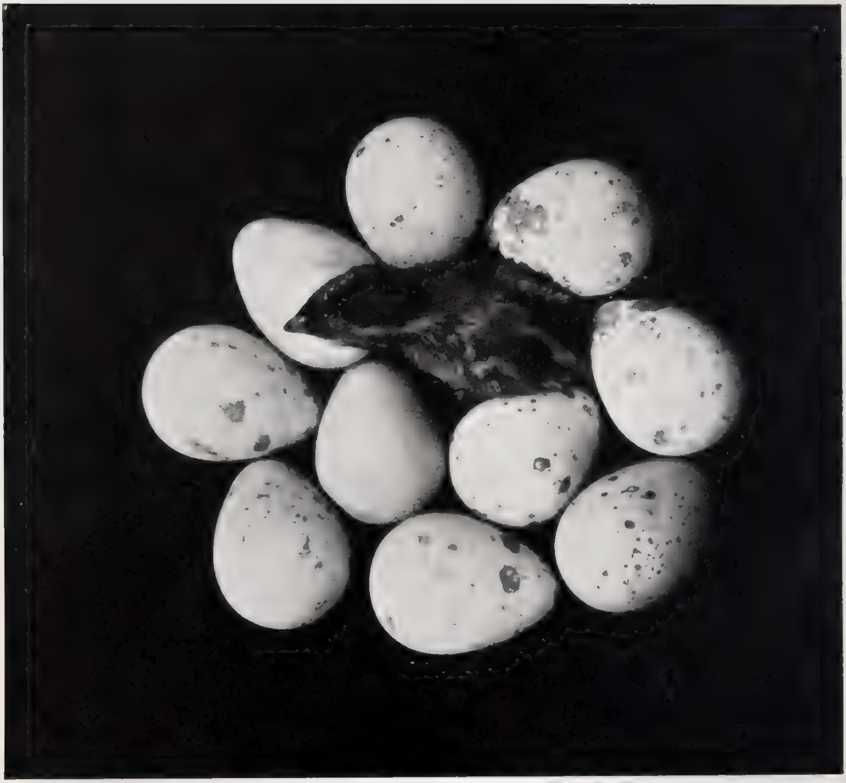


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

White-cheeked Crested Quail.
Eggs and Young.

laid again. I have omitted to say that the eggs were a very light buff almost white: size 1.00 x 85.

On the 24th the young were fully feathered except on the crown and abdomen. On the 26th I was interested to see them eating earth, though what the object was I cannot imagine, as they had plenty of grit perhaps for medicinal purposes. On the 1st March there were only three left of the original six, and I began to despair of fully rearing any, but after that date the weather improved, the sun gave us a look up and the little Argoondahs took a fresh grip of life. The remaining three were all reared and turned out strong and handsome little birds. By the 9th February they were well feathered on the crown, the moustachial streak had disappeared and the cheeks were covered with dark feathers with bright centres. All this time the hen had been laying and by the 26th she had a clutch of no less than 14 eggs, of which I removed 6. From this second clutch three more young birds were reared. At the age of seven weeks the young were fully feathered and quite independent (Mr. Seth Smith gives five weeks for *Coturnix*) and the young males could be easily distinguished by their barred breasts, though it is singular that, from the 5th to the 7th week, the breasts of the females also showed distinct traces of barring. The photo gives a good idea of the young at the age of one month.

As I have now parted with my Argoondahs I can say without fear of being misunderstood that I do not know any of the smaller Quails more charming or more suitable for aviculture than this, being very hardy, quite easy to breed and most delightfully tame (although by the way, Dr. Russ considers the species wild*) To my great regret the clear, ringing, musical, call-notes, with which the male Argoondah used to herald the dawn of day, are no longer heard in the aviary. But life is full of partings!

THE WHITE-CHEEKED CRESTED QUAIL.

This species differs very markedly in almost every characteristic from the one above described. It belongs to the genus *Eupsychortyx*, in which the sexes differ in plumage, the crest is well developed, and the twelve tail feathers are more than half the length of the wing. It is almost as large (8.5 inches) as the well-known Californian Quail (9.7 inches) and exceedingly handsome, the crest of the male being buff, the ear patches pure white, margined with chestnut, eyebrow stripe rufous, the breast rich chestnut covered with large white spots right up to the throat, the back finely mottled with black The female has a brown crest, the under part paler and is a good deal smaller. It is a South American species ranging from Veragua to Columbia. Its wildness I have already alluded to. It is somewhat arboreal in its habits, frequently roosting in shrubs and taking refuge in trees when alarmed. It is also very fond of sunning itself in the early morning on a roof, whereas the little Argoondah Quail is hardly ever seen off the ground. Its call notes are somewhat like those of a Partridge, but are not frequently heard except during the breeding season. On the whole I should say that it is not a very easy species to breed. They had a beautiful pair of its close relative, Sonini's Crested Quail, in a breeding aviary, at the Zoo, some time since, but I have not heard that they had any success with them.

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* Russ says—"Lately introduced into the trade by Gaetano Afri of Trieste . . . . . is unfortunately pugnacious and timid and difficult to tame, otherwise it would be an ornament to the bird-room."

I obtained my pair early in '08 but they made no attempt to nest that season in a medium sized out-door aviary. In'09 I shifted them to a larger aviary where they incubated a clutch of 13 eggs in the month of August, the result of which attempt I have partly described above. I will only add that I released the adults and the young from the pen and allowed them to range at liberty in the aviary. They did well for a day or two, but the first rather wet and cold night destroyed the entire brood. They nested again in September, laying 13 eggs, but I removed the latter just before hatching, thinking it useless to attempt rearing the young so late in the season. I found that every single egg contained a live chick. The period of incubation appears to be unusually long. In the first instance it was 28 days (9th August to 6th September). This season they concealed their nest so well that I did not find it until the 9th August (the female having then been missing for several days): they hatched on the 30th. I do not think it has ever been suggested that any of the Quails take longer than 21 days to hatch, so it would have been much more satisfactory if I had been able to note the exact day when incubation commenced this season, but, as it is, I can only leave the matter as it stands.

I am not aware that the eggs or young of this species have been described so the accompanying photo may be of interest. The eggs are rich buff, blotched and freckled with light red: size 1.20 x .92. As will be seen they are of a type more usually associated with the Plovers, somewhat flattened at the larger end and pointed at the smaller end.

The young have the well marked central stripe, passing from the crown down the back, a rich red-brown.

This summer I tried the Crested Quails in a small breeding pen without any result, but as soon as they were transferred to the larger aviary they again laid 13 eggs in a beautifully hidden nest, in the midst of a thick patch of long grass. The female used to draw the grass-stems together over her until she was quite invisible even to one knowing her exact position. I had come to two conclusions; one—that the adults would only nest in a large, natural aviary; two—that the young could not be possibly reared except with artificial heat: I therefore got the apparatus in which the young Argoondah Quails were reared all ready. This was in the very warmest corner of a warm house and consisted of two compartments separated by what engineers would call a "baffle-plate"—in other words a division under which the young could pass easily but the adults only with difficulty and at the centre; the object being to prevent the adults from ramping up and down the enclosure and trampling on the young. The adults brought off 12 young at mid-day on the 30th August, leaving one chick on the point of hatching—another proof of the extraordinary fertility of the eggs.

Having located the family party under a bush close to the side of the aviary, I fastened one end of a small herring-net to the wire-netting, and got an assistant to hold the other end. I then began to surround the bush with a very fine-meshed clap-net. The adults soon took to their heels and ran into the pocket of the large net which was at once thrown down on them by my assistant. The young entangled themselves in the small net and were extricated one by one and placed in a cage. Old and young were then taken to the rearing-pen, the operation occupying less than half an hour.

On the 11th September the chicks were showing buff triangular spots on the scapulars and on the 13th their breasts were most strikingly marked with longitudinal stripes of buffish-white. It is singular that the young of some birds and mammals (as for instance the Tapirs) pass through a phase of colouring which is actually brighter and more variegated than that of the adults, but, in tropical countries where a glowing sun casts vivid shadows on the ground, these schemes of colouring probably render the young less, and not more, conspicuous. I was away from home from the 20th September till the 5th October.

On the 6th I removed the adults and turned the young, which were almost as wild as the adults, into the covered house. This was a mistake, for I lost half a dozen in rapid succession through dashing themselves against the glass. I sent one to our Editor, aged eight weeks, which was killed in this way.

At this age the crest is well developed, the sides of the face are rufous, the breast streaked with dark brown, the back having many dark brown feathers with bold centre stripes of buff, the tail mottled and barred with black; but what chiefly interested me was a couple of most singular patches one, in the centre of breast, rufous, and another at the side, just covering the butt of the left wing, light chestnut with white ocellations (as in the adults). I wanted to obtain our Editor's opinion as to whether this was an instance of the actual change of colour in individual feathers, the possibility of which has been often denied.

I have only three young Crested Quails left now and these I have incarcerated again in the rearing pen where they are doing well. They have rather pretty piping notes (quite different from those of the adults) which form a little scale with distinct intervals of "thirds."

I fear that the number of young fully reared of the above two species will appear insignificant when compared with Mr. Seth Smith's record, but I am almost sure that, if any of our members will try the experiment of rearing young Quails in February and October they will agree with me that it is not quite so simple a matter as it may appear on paper.

[I made a careful examination of the breast patches and am strongly of the opinion that it is an actual change of colour in individual feathers, and was intensely interested therein -our esteemed member should be able to confirm this opinion or otherwise by the time the young Quails become fully adult -personally I feel no doubt upon the point and am assured that similar colour changes are more universal than is generally admitted. The whole subject is intensely interesting and our members should keep all fledgelings, under the strictest observation, during the period of donning adult plumage. Ed.]

Quails.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

To keep and breed Quails successfully the aviary must be roomy and contain plenty of natural cover in the form of low bushes, and tall grass and weeds, bundles of brushwood may be added in suitable positions to increase same.

Several species, in single pairs, may occupy the same aviary providing the cover is good and space ample, and though in the breeding season the males of the respective pairs become intolerant of each other, yet serious quarrelling seldom occurs.

At the breeding season in my aviary, lacking natural cover, I was only able to keep one species in each enclosure, purchasing this experience at the expense of several losses. Young Quails may be reared on ordinary insectile mixture and seed alone, yet if procurable the task is much easier if live ants' cocoons ("eggs") and gentles are supplied and according to my experience (principally of other birds) the young are more robust.

All the species to be described in this paper, unless otherwise stated - are hardy providing they have a dry shelter shed to retire to at will.

This article is written by request.

THE CHINESE PAINTED QUAIL.

(Excalfactoria chinensis).

This charming and diminutive species is one of the most beautiful of the Quail tribe, an adult male being a brilliant and handsomely clad fellow only a coloured plate properly depicts it.

The adult male is olive-brown on the upper parts, the feathers of the mantle are barred with black and have light shaft streaks; wings darker brown with the coverts more or less mahogany-red and splashed in the centre with slaty-blue; the forehead, lores, ear-coverts, and breast also slaty-blue; chin and throat black; from the sides of each mandible extend two white streaks extending to the ear coverts and divided by a narrow black line; a crescentic white collar borders the black throat, which is margined with black; the middle of chest, abdomen, ventral region, and tail mahogany-red; bill black with a leaden sheen; legs and feet ochre-yellow; total length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{8}$.

The female is simply a plain brown bird, the feathers of the upper parts being barred with black, and have light shaft streaks; the throat is white; sides of face slightly rufous; under parts pale buff, barred with black on chest, sides and flanks.

Range: This is very extensive; they are found in Ceylon, the Indian Peninsula, the Indo-Chinese countries; Formosa, Celebes, and Ternate. It also occurs in Australia and this form was given specific rank by Gould as *E. australis.* With so wide a range, it is not surprising that there are local variations both in size and colouration

Wild Life: They keep in pairs but at the end of the breeding season they are found in small coveys, consisting of the parent birds and their young.

According to Hume, swampy, grassy-lands and meadows are their favourite haunts, and they are seldom found far from such, but they wander into low bush-jungle, the edges of low-standing crops, and also into grassy patches along the sides of roads.

They feed chiefly on grass-seeds, and so far as Hume's observations went, very little on either grain or insects (they are certainly very keen on mealworms, gentles, and live ants' " eggs " in the aviary).

The hen sits, but the male is always to be found close at hand; when the young are hatched both parents accompany them for at least two months after they are able to fly.

The nest is a mere depression in the ground, in a clump of coarse grass, loosely lined with a few grass stems. The eggs are usually five or six in number; olive-brown in colour, more or less speckled with reddish-brown or purplish-grey dots.

In the aviary their habits are very similar to those described above. In my late aviary, when I kept this species I could only supply growing grass in boxes and change them pretty frequently. While these were in the aviary they were always used as squatting places, but though eggs were frequently dropped about, no attempt was made to incubate them, which is scarcely to be wondered at.

With those aviarists having roomy natural aviaries at their disposal thay have bred freely—in one aviary as many as 30 were reared in one season from a single pair.

In my aviary they had access to canary, millet and the coarser seed mixture for the Cardinals and Parrakeets, but their princpal diet was the former, they also picked over the soft mixture and at times got both gentles and live ants' "eggs"—of mealworms they got a few daily—they were the first to attack flowering grass and other weeds, when the daily supply was put in. When rearing young, live ants' "eggs," gentles and fine ground Partridge meal, made crumbly moist should be supplied, but they soon begin to pick up seed. Some aviarists give finely minced hard boiled yolk of egg for the first few days.

The young are very precocious and are in full adult plumage at the age of about five weeks.

Unless the aviary is a large one, it is a wise precaution to clip one wing, this is usually sufficient, as by the time the moult has passed, they are mostly sufficiently settled not to damage themselves by wild upward flights.

A pair of these or some other species of Quail ought to be in every out-door aviary and a grassy corner ought to be manufactured for them somehow by constant renewal, if no other means are available.

THE BLACK-BREASTED OR RAIN QUAIL.*

This handsome species has been known to aviculturists for about ten or eleven years. It ranges over the Peninsula of India and according to Ogville Grant extends to Assam, Mainpur, Chittagong and Pegu; also very probably to Arrakan.

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* *Coturnix coromandelica*

Description: Adult male. Upper parts sandy-brown, variegated with pale buff shaft streaks and black bars and markings; chin and throat white, with a black mark down the centre, which extends right and left at the base of the throat in a crescentic form; chest and breast rufous-brown, with a large black patch in the centre; remainder of under parts palish buff-brown: Total length 5 inches, tail 1¼.

Adult female. Differs from the male in that it lacks the black mark down the middle of the throat, and the chest and breast are thickly spotted with black-brown.

Wild Life. The following notes are compiled from Hume's "Birds of India:" The plains of India are its real home, though it is found in the hills up to 6,000 feet as a straggler. In the breeding season it is met with in pairs, as soon as the young are able to fly, in small coveys consisting of the parent birds and their young—in the cold season they are only met with singly- they run less but fly more than the Common Quail. Their food consists of various seeds and live insects.

The nest is a mere depression in the ground and save for a few stray grass stems, quite unlined. The eggs usually number about nine the colour varies from yellowish-white to brownish-buff -the markings are very variable in different clutches some clutches are finely spotted and dotted all over with blackish or brown -others are heavily blotched and marked with rich brown—while there are others intermediate between the two.

I have only had an odd male of this species, it was very tame and one had to be careful when in the aviary not to tread upon it. I seldom saw it upon the wing and then only in the dusk of the evening. I have found most species of Quail on the move at midnight whenever I have gone the round of the aviary late. It paired up with a Common Quail, and a number of eggs were dropped about the aviary and though these were gathered together and placed in a depression under their shelter board, no attempt was made to incubate them - in the end mice and other birds sucked their contents and the shells were also broken up and mostly consumed. Those who have bred this species find that they will brook no interference with their nest, deserting it and eating the eggs upon the least provocation, but left to themselves, they will usually carry out the duties of incubation and rearing of their young successfully—very many of those hatched out succumb during the first few days if the season be cold and wet.

The species appeared to me to feed exactly as my Painted and Common Quails, though perhaps keener on capturing any insects venturing into their enclosure –all the joints of the brickwork, round their enclosure were carefully searched for insects several times daily -flies basking in the sun, hunting spiders, and small beetles were greedily snapped up and though they frequently had to bound upward to reach the insect, they but seldom failed to capture it. The call note is a double one.

THE HARLEQUIN QUAIL.*

This is a very handsome African species; it is so similar to the preceding species that a detailed description is not called for. It will suffice to say that it is easily distinguished therefrom by the under parts being mostly chestnut with a black breast patch and its larger size. Total length 6 inches, tail 1. The female may also be distinguished by her buffish-rufous under parts.

This is cetainly one of the most beautiful of the true Quails and is not a frequently imported species, though common in South and West Africa.

I found them tame and confiding but owing to the absence of living cover they showed no inclination to nest, save dropping eggs about the aviary; but in the natural aviaries of some of our members they have bred freely; incubation lasts from fifteen to sixteen days, and at the age of from 7 to 8 weeks the young are in full adult plumage and soon begin to fight for the hens.

The call note is a triple one. Food and treatment same as for the other species.

To be continued.

**Coturnix delegorguei*

Foods for Various Cage Birds.

By Tinniswood Miller, F.Z.S.

Noticing a letter in the September issue on this subject I think perhaps the following list of birds and their foods may be of some assistance to those members who have just begun to keep foreign birds.

Of the birds that my wife and self have kept from time to time, only those are mentioned that have moulted, come into and remained in good health and perfect plumage: most of them have been shown at one time or another at either the Horticultural Hall or Palace Shows, and have generally managed to get among the cards.

All our birds are kept, either singly or in pairs, in separate cages. The seeds and foods are placed in the order I consider most important for the different species.

LOVEBIRDS.

Buderigars and Madagascar Lovebirds.	Canary, white millet, Indian millet, apple, lettuce, flowering grass and spray millet.
Red-faced Lovebirds.	Indian millet, spray millet, canary, white millet, lettuce and apple. (I do not think these birds will live any length of time without Indian millet).
Blue-winged, Black-faced, Peach-faced and Guiana Lovebirds	Canary, white and Indian millet, paddy rice, hemp, apple, lettuce, grass, spray millet and white oats.

PARROTS AND PARRAKEETS.

Grey and Hawk-headed Parrots.	Sunflower (white, striped and black) canary hemp, paddy rice, dari, wheat, fruit and nuts in season; as tit-bits, cake, biscuits, and a little milk pudding (rice for choice).
Cuban Parrots.	The same as above, but more fruit and green stuff.
Dusky and Red-vented Parrots.	Canary, sunflower, hemp, paddy rice, dari wheat, fruit, nuts, green stuff, biscuits, and cake.

Senegal Parrot and Ring-necked Parrakeet.	Canary, sunflower, white millet, hemp, paddy rice, fruit, nuts, biscuits, cake and green stuff.
White-eared and Yellow or Sun Conures.	Canary, white millet, paddy rice, hemp, sunflower, fruit, nuts, etc., as other Parrots.
Many-coloured, Red-vented and Blue-bonnet Parrakeets.	The same as for Conures with white oats added, but apple, flowering grass, or some green stuff is given every day. In summer, flowers, such as mignonette, primroses, sweet peas, are highly appreciated.

LORIES AND LORIKEETS.

Swainson's Lorikeet.	Bread and milk (bread soaked in boiling water for some time, then squeezed dry and Nestle's milk made with boiling water poured over it) grapes, banana, apple, pear, lettuce, and other green stuff, also seed as for Dusky Parrot is given.
Forsten's Lorikeet.	The same as above, but this bird took very little seed, and could do without it altogether I think.
Purple-naped and Yellow-backed Lories.	The same as the above, but no seed whatever.

FINCHES, WAXBILLS, AND BUNTINGS.

Sydney Waxbill & Green Singing Finch.	White millet, canary, Indian millet, spray millet, green food, flowering grass, lettuce, groundsel, chickweed, apple and grapes.
Blue-breasted, Melba and Violet-eared Waxbills ; Crimson, Painted, & Parrot Finches.	The same as the above, but with the addition of a mealworm or two every day or some small smooth caterpillars.

Hooded Siskin, Nonpareil, Rainbow, and Pileated Buntings: Scaly-crowned Weaver bird.	Canary, white millet, Indian millet, spray millet, and a pinch of a good Finch mixture such as Capern's, put on the floor of the cage daily, the usual green food and a couple of mealworms, spiders or smooth caterpillars when they can be obtained.
Lavender-backed Finch *(Spermophila castaneiventris).*	Indian millet, white millet, canary, spray millet, finch mixture and usual green food.

SOFT BILLS.

The soft food mixture I use is made of Osborn biscuit 2$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Melox dog biscuit 2 oz. Ants eggs $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Silk worm cocoon $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. These ingredients are mixed together and put through a coffee grinding mill, the yolks of 2 hard boiled eggs are rubbed in, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. more ants' eggs added and the whole throughly well mixed. I find this quantity is sufficient for 3 birds about the size of a Shama for a week. It is made up fresh every week: when given to the birds it is made crumbly moist with boiling water. I do not use dried flies, I find the birds do better without them.

Shama, Ruby-throated Indian Warbler, Tickel's and Verditer Flycatchers.	Soft food mixture and about 6 mealworms a day, with spiders or any other small insects that can be obtained.
Superb Tanager.	Sponge cake soaked in Nestle's milk made with boiling water, and squeezed out so as to be just crumbly, grapes, banana, apple, and 2 or 3 mealworms every day, orange twice a week.
Festive Tanager.	Orange (quite sweet), grapes, apple, sponge cake as above, a pinch of soft food mixture, and a couple of meal worms. I also give a banana, but they do not seem to care much for it.
Striated Tanager	Sponge cake as for Superb, banana, grapes mealworms (3), and orange every other day.

Gold-fronted Bulbul.	Grapes, banana, soft food mixture, with one day sponge cake made as for Tanagers, and the next, Nestle's milk with a little Mellin's food in it, half-dozen mealworms a day and orange three times a week.
Yellow-winged Sugar bird.	Nestle's milk with a little Mellins' in it, sponge cake as for Tanagers, grapes and banana. For a tit-bit I give a lump of sugar just moistened with milk.
Toucan (Lettered Aracari).	Mashed boiled potato with ground seeds, pea meal, currants and sultanas mixed with it grapes, banana, and other fresh soft fruit.

[We are much indebted to our esteemed member for these valuable and practical notes by their thoughtful application, not only should the species named be kept in health and vigour under similar conditions, but it should be noted that very many species of the same genus, or of close affinity can be equally well kept on the same food and treatment.—ED].

Birds of Gambia.

By E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 290.

CAPITONIDÆ.

Pogonorhynchus dubius. GROOVE-BILLED BARBET.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Niger. *(H.L).*

The commonest of our Barbets, both in Bathurst and throughout the Protectorate. They go about in pairs and are by no means shy birds or inclined to skulk among thick foliage as so many brightly plumaged birds do, but on the other hand seem to delight in flaunting their black and crimson hues everywhere and to every one. In the Protectorate, whenever one comes across one of the Soto-trees (wild fig) in fruit, one is sure to find a pair or more of these Barbets feeding among the Glossy Starlings, Green Pigeons, and hosts of smaller birds, to whom these little figs offer such attractions. Of all the crowd the Barbets are much the boldest, and are always the first to return after the flock has been dispersed by a gun-shot. These "Soto" figs and other bush fruit seem to be their chief, and at any rate their favourite food, but they may eat insects as well. Their Mandingo name is "Kudúng-kudúng," a name they share with the Red-breasted Barbary Shrike.

They are particularly handsome birds, about as big as a Thrush and of very powerful build. Their plumage is black above with a white mantle sometimes edged with a little crimson, below crimson from chin to vent, with a broad black pectoral band and bright yellow patches on the sides. The strong, deeply notched beak is pink tinged with orange and surrounded by stiff black bristles. The bare skin round the eyes is bright yellow.

Lybius vieilloti. VIEILLOT'S BARBET.

Range. North-east Africa, West Africa, Senegambia to Nigeria. *(H.L.).*

A much smaller bird than the preceding; it has a yellow breast, red head and throat mottled with black. Beak black and surrounded by short stiff bristles; legs, black; iris, burnt-sienna brown. Length, 6 inches. This Barbet is not very common in the Gambia but small parties may sometimes be seen feeding on the ripe fruit of some bush-tree. I had one alive for a few days, but it did not live.

Tricholaema melanocephalum.

Range. Senegambia, North-east Africa. *(H.L.)*

This species I do not know. Above it is yellow, mottled with black, and below, white; the head is longitudinally striped with black and white. Length, 4½ inches.

Barbatula minuta.

Range. Senegambia, North-east Africa. *(H.L.)*

B. chrysocoma. GOLDEN-FRONTED BARBET.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast; North-east Africa *(H.L.)*

B. leucolaema. WHITE-THROATED BARBET.

Range. Senegambia to Congo; Equatorial Africa. *(H.L.)*

B. scolopacea. YELLOW-SPECKLED BARBET.

Range. Senegambia to Gaboon. *(H.L.)*

These four Barbets are all small birds, whose prevailing colours are yellows, blacks and reds, variegated with white. I only know two different species,—I think *minuta* and *chrysocoma,*— which one sees occasionally feeding in small parties on fig, orange, and other trees or hunting their branches for insects. When thus occupied they look extremely finch-like, both in shape and actions. I have only seen them in or near Bathurst at the beginning of and during the rains.

The following description of the differences between the four species I take from the British Museum Catalogue:

Forehead, red or yellow.

Fore-part of crown, crimson, with a very narrow frontal line *minuta.* (Length 3.8 inches).

Fore-part of crown, orange-yellow. *chrysocoma.* (4 inches).

Forehead, black, like the rest of the crown and mantle.; rump, yellow. *leucolaema.* (3.7 inches).

Forehead, dark brown (like the rest of upper parts) with yellow edges to the feathers. *scolopacea* (4.2 inches).

In all, the bill and feet are black, the former surrounded by fine bristles.

To be continued.

Foreign Birds

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 285).

Black-fronted Euphonia *(E. concinna).* Not known, to British aviculture.

Adult male. Upper surface, deep bluish-black, with a purplish sheen on the back of the neck; circular cap or patch on top of head, bright yellow; forehead and lores, black; under surface, rich yellow; throat and upper breast, very dark bluish-black; underside of tail black; under wing-coverts white; bill bluish-black, lower mandible much lighter than upper; legs and feet, slaty. Total length 3½ inches, tail 1⅜.

Female. Upper surface, olive-green, brighter on the rump; wing and tail feathers, brownish-olive, broadly margined with olive-green; under surface yellowish-olive; much lighter on the throat and centre of abdomen.

It ranges over Columbia, and the specimens from the various districts appear to be pretty constant. With the exception of one specimen all have the underside of tail black, and in this odd specimen there appeared slight indications of white. To save repetition, I may state here that all this genus are beautiful, but some have the plumage more lustrous than others, these I have indicated by the use of the word "glossy" in the various descriptions, perhaps the plainest is *E. vittata*, but this is a beautiful example of subdued-rich-hues.

Finsch's Euphonia *(E. finschi). A specially beautiful* British Guianan species, with deep rich hues, and refulgent plumage.

Adult male. Upper surface, glossy purple-black; forehead and front of crown, yellowish orange; under-surface of body fiery orange; under wing-coverts, and inner webs of wing feathers white; underside of tail blackish-brown; bill, legs, and feet blackish. Total length 3½ inches, tail 1¼.

Female. Dark olive above, strongly washed with yellowish below. A most desirable species.

Orange-crowned Euphonia *(E. saturata).* This is another extremely beautiful species, plumage very lustrous, and hues very intense.

Adult male. Upper surface glossy purple-black, deep rich violaceous on the mantle and neck; forehead, and crown rich orange-yellow; under surface of body as crown, but of a deeper hue; throat rich violaceous-black; under wing-coverts and inner margins of wing feathers white; underside of tail, black; bill dark plumbeous; legs and feet brownish-black. Total length $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Female. Darkish olive-green with yellowish undersurface

Habitat. According to the Museum Catalogue its range is Western Ecuador and Peru.

Dwarf Euphonia *(E. minuta).* This minute species is known to English aviculture. Capt. Pam presented this to the Zoo in 1906, when it was new to the collection, and in the same year our esteemed member, Mr. E. W. Harper, who was then resident in Georgetown, Demerara, sent me over skins; from these and living specimens the descriptions given below are taken. During the current year other living specimens have been privately imported by our esteemed members, Messrs. A. Sutcliffe, and R. Suggitt, a pair of which have come into my possession. Unfortunately, the hen arrived in poor plumage, and though she renewed her plumage, and I had great hopes of her becoming acclimatised, she succumbed to the moult which followed too closely on the hardships of importation. They are a most attractive little species, with quite a nice song, soon become confiding, and so minute as to be little, if any, larger than a Gold-crested wren; but, and unfortunately, there is a "but," they are very difficult to acclimatise. They have an appetite for banana altogether out of proportion to their size, a pair of these minute gems will demolish a large banana, several grapes, and pay visits to the milk sop daily. So far, they have refused live insects (mealworms), but I have noticed them capture minute flies and take blight from the plants in their flight.

Adult male. The general colouration is glistening greenish-black, with a purplish sheen on the neck and mantle; forehead bright yellow; throat purplish-black; under surface yellow, merging into white on the lower abdomen and under tail-coverts; bill dark leaden-grey; legs and feet blackish. Total length 3⅝ inches, tail 1⅛.

Female. Olive-green, washed with yellowish on the under surface; and the centre of abdomen ashy-white.

Habitat. "Guiana, Lower Amazonia, Columbia, Panama, and Central America, up to Guatemala" (B.M.C.).

RED CAPPED EUPHONIA *(E. annæ).* Not known to British aviculture. A beautiful and distinct species, readily distinguished from others of the genus by its ruddy-chestnut head and white ventral region. According to the Museum Catalogue it is found in Costa Rica and Veragua.

Adult male. Upper surface, rich violaceous-black; forehead and crown, ruddy-chestnut; under surface: throat deep black; breast and abdomen bright yellow; ventral region white; underside of wings and tail black; bill dark leaden-grey; legs and feet blackish. Total length 4½ inches, tail 1½.

Female. Upper surface olive-green; neck plumbeous; forehead tinged with rufous; under surface yellowish; with the throat, breast, centre of abdomen, and ventral region ashy.

FULVOUS-VENTED EUPHONIA *(E. fulvicrissa).* Not known to British aviculture.

Adult male. Upper surface, glossy bluish-black; front part of head, extending to the eyes, yellow; under surface of body bright yellow; throat, and upper breast deep bluish-black; ventral region fulvous; thighs black; inner margins of wing feathers at the base white; underside of tail black; with a white patch on inner web of outer feathers; bill black; legs and feet blackish-brown. Total length 3⅝ inches, tail 1¼.

Female. Upper surface bronzy-olive-green; under surface greenish-yellow, with the ventral region tinged with fulvous.

According to the British Museum Catalogue its range is Northern Columbia and the Isthmus of Panama.

GODMAN'S EUPHONIA *(E. godmani)* This species is slightly known to British aviculture. But the only occasion I know of its having reached Great Britain alive is that recorded in *B.N.*, Vol. viii, p. 58, by our esteemed member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, which I reprint here in full:—

> "Mr. F. C. Thorpe has recently imported some Godman's Tanagers (*Euphonia godmani*). This is one of the races of the well-known Violet Tanager (*E. violacea*), and closely resembles it in outward appearance, though it is much smaller. Those recently imported are not quite up to the standard measurements of this species, but I think the identification is correct. It may be useful to distinguish between four species of *Euphonia* which resemble one another in colouring. The smallest is the little Dwarf Tanager (*E. minuta*) -a very pigmy among Tanagers, a pair of which may be seen in the Bird-house at the Zoological Gardens; under tail-coverts, white. Next in point of size comes the Godman. A little larger and with wide and heavy mandibles is the Thick-billed Tanager (*E. laniirostris*), also to be seen in the Bird-house. Lastly, the common *E. violacea*, which needs no description. Mr. Beebe met with the Godman Tanager in Mexico, and from his charming book ("Two Bird-lovers in Mexico,") I quote the following: 'Not far from camp were several groves of wide-branching wild fig trees. These were the grandest trees in this part of Mexico, branching almost to the ground and stretching out their vast mass of foliage on all sides. Some of them measure fully ten feet through near the base. Their fruit is devoured by cattle, deer, and birds, though in this locality it was not yet ripe . . . . . Here are found the little Godman Euphonia in abundance four inches of yellow and violet; the male with his bright yellow cap, breast, and under parts, and his mate of a sombre greenish. The voice of the Euphonia is out of all proportion to its size -a loud but slow and hesitating phe-ut! phe-ut!' I may add that the note of the Godman appears to be identical with that of *E. violacea*. W.E.T."

A pair of the above passed into Mr. Teschemaker's possession. They have constructed two nests, both domed and built in a nest box (see notes under Violet Euphonia and photo) and laid one clutch of eggs, which were unfortunately looted by a pair of Rufous-backed Mannikins before he could make any close examination.

It is to be hoped that if the birds survive the winter complete success will be attained next season.

To be Continued.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in Cage and Aviary. Cassell and Co., in monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part VIII.—Is to hand and is of the usual merit and interest The chapter on "Moulting on Colour-food" is completed; one on "Exhibiting and Washing" is included, also the commencement of one on Shows, Judging, Reporting, and Technical Terms--in fact nothing is wanting to make this interesting and popular work, thoroughly practical and up-to-date. The frontispiece is a coloured plate of Yorkshire Canaries, figuring four varieties and there are also a number of excellent half-tone illustrations and text figures.

Notes on a Naturalist's Visit to Australia: By D. Seth Smith, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Price 2/- from the Author, 34 Elsworthy Road, South Hampstead, N.W. or R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, W.

This interesting account of the Author's visit to Australia in the Autumn of 1907 and Spring of 1908 for the purpose of collaborating with the various Zoological Societies, etc. of the Antipodes to endeavour to get together a representative collection of its fauna, for the Zoological Society of London; it has already appeared in the*Avicultural Magazine*. Interesting and graphic accounts are given of Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Other Zoos, together with descriptive visits to various localities, with field notes of the wild birds met with. There are numerous half-tone illustrations and photographic reproductions illustrating the localities visited. We may mention several, one from the brush of Mr. Goodchild, viz.: Black and White Fantail Flycatcher, and photos of the Australian Stone Plover and Brush Turkeys' Mound at the Melbourne Zoo.

Our readers will find the above very interesting and will renew the acquaintance of many present or former occupants of their aviaries in its pages.

The Birds of Australia: G. M. Mathews London, Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, W.C. In two-guinea parts.

We have received from Messrs. Witherby and Co., a prospectus of this sumptuous and important ornithological work it will be specially welcome to all ornithologists and bird-lovers, as it will bring our knowledge of the avifauna of this vast continent right up-to-date from personal field notes and all reliable sources. For the benefit of our readers and to give publicity to this important work, we reprint the following glossary from prospectus:

Scope: Coloured figures and descriptive letterpress of the whole of the birds of Australia.

Size: Royal 4to, 13½ x 9½.

Plan of Publication: The three hundred sets to be issued by subscription in parts. The price of each part will be £2 2s., and the whole work will be divided into volumes arranged according to the various orders of birds. Each volume will be complete in itself.

Fifty extra unnumbered copies will be printed for those who desire any particular volumes and these may be subscribed for separately.

Every plate will be hand-coloured by experts.

The greatest possible care will be taken that each plate is a faithful representation of the species depicted.

Letterpress: The text will be as perfect and complete as possible. The author is consulting every published source of information, and has also the assistance of the best known Australian field-ornithologists, and the aid of Dr. Ernest Hartert, curator of the Hon. Walter Rothschild's Museum.

Paper: The paper for the plates and letterpress has been specially made for this work and is of fine and lasting quality.

Volume I. Emus, Quails, Pigeons, Rails, Grebes, etc. About 70 species and plates. In five parts at £2 2s. per part.

Other volumes will be, so far as can be seen, as follows:—

Volume II. Petrels, Shearwaters, Albatrosses, Terns, Gulls. In five parts at £2 2s. per part.

Volume III. Plovers, Waders, Bustards, Herons, etc. In five parts, at £2 2s. per part.

Volume IV. Swans, Geese, Ducks, Cormorants, Gannets, Pelicans, etc. In three parts, at £2 2s. per part.

Volume V. Harriers, Hawks, Eagles, Owls, etc. In three parts, at £2 2s. per part.

Volume VI. Parrots. In five parts, at £2 2s. per part.

Volume VII. Rollers, Kingfishers, Nightjars, Swifts, Cuckoos, etc. In three parts, at £2 2s. per part.

Volume VIII. to end. Will contain the Passerine birds, which as at present known, number some 450 species. These being small birds, some plates will contain two or three figures. The volumes will be arranged in groups of families as conveniently as possible, and the parts will be made as uniform as possible.

To the above we may add that all the known species of Australian Birds are to be depicted in colour, and that the specimen coloured plate accompanying the prospectus, figures the Yellow-mantled Parrakeet and is perfect in every respect, as also appears to be every other detail of this sumptuous work. .. . . the name of the publishers being sufficient warranty for this.

We cordially recommend it to our readers.

The Home of the Spoonbill, the Stork and some Herons. By Bentley Beetham, F.Z.S., London. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn. 5s. net.

A copy of this interesting book has come to hand just as we are going to press, and it must suffice in this issue to remark that the book is fascinating, not merely for the 32 tastefully mounted photographs from life it contains, but even more so, from the fact, that the text also is entirely written up from life.

We cordially recommend it to our readers.

Editorial.

See Inset.

Correspondence.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES, UVAEAN PARRAKEETS, ETC.

Sir,—I have been intending to write one or two things since reading the September number, but have not found time hitherto.

I quite agree with E.B.H. on the importance of being told how to feed birds. And even if one knows how to feed the species, if one is buying a fresh bird, one ought always to know how the individual has been fed.

I never can understand why English bird dealers think filthy, smelly, shops profitable. On the continent, according to my experience at Havre, Hamburg, Paris, Antwerp, and Cologne, the bird shops are clean and airy.

As to Uvæan Parrakeets, Mr. Blaauw told me he found they cound not stand the close air of a room, or hemp seed. He had one which lived some years in an aviary. F. G. DUTTON.

RINGED-NECKED PARRAKEET AT LARGE, etc.

Sir.—The following will probably be of some little interest. Last February I bought a pair of Ring-neck Parrakeets. They were young birds and very wild and savage. I kept them in a large mixed aviary out of doors till June when I let them go. They both kept about the garden, flying up into some large Elm tress when I appeared. In June or July one disappeared. But the other has remained here ever since. I always put food on the outside of the aviary for the one that has remained in the garden. The interesting thing is that to-day the other has come back. Where it has been over three months I don't know.

I see no reason why the Ring-necks should not winter here. It is seldom very cold, and I shall put up some nest-boxes for them next spring.

The one that stayed played havoc with the fruit of my neighbours' orchards.

A few days ago a small black kitten of mine, about 7 or 8 weeks old, brought into my study, in its mouth, a fine Kingfisher, it had probably caught it roosting at the river-bank (it was at about 10 p.m.) It seemed unhurt and sat perched on my finger for some time. I kept it in a cage for the night and it flew off when let out next morning.

PHILIP GOSSE.

[Ring-necks are perfectly hardy and will winter outside with ease, and will undoubltedly breed, if orchard owners do not bring out a gun. I should suggest a log or nest-box, in some rather inaccessable position in one of the Elms. Ed.]

Post-Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st *of any month.*

It would greatly help me to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

Napoleon Weaver. ♂ (R. E. Simpson, Leeds). The testicles of this bird were black in colour. Death was due to pneumonia.

Young Gouldian Finch. (W. Shore Bailey, Wilts.) There was an extensive blood extravastion or bruising under the ribs, due no doubt to an injury.

Young Diamond Dove. (Dr. Philip Gosse, Hants). Nothing abnormal was noticed. The body seemed well nourished. In all probability death was due to an ante-infection.

Budgerigar. (Dr. Philip Gosse). The same remarks apply.

Miss Peacock, Kent.—The bird sent for P.M. examination died of pneumonia.

Gouldian Finch. ♂ (T. R. Hadley, Burton-on-Trent). The cause of death was pneumonia.

Magpie. (Miss Peacock). Cause of death ptomaine poisoning.

Madagascar Love Bird. ♂ (W. Shore Bailey, Wilts.). Cause of death apoplexy of liver.

Steel Finch. (Countess von Hahn, Surrey). Cause of death, pneumonia due to a chill.

Zebra Dove. ♀ (Dr. P. Gosse, Hants.). I found nothing abnormal amiss with the bird.

Cordon Blue ♂. (Mrs. E. Easton Scott, Surrey). The cause of death was pneumonia.

Nonpareil Bunting ♂. Death was due to pneumonia.

Diamond Sparrow . (H. W. Mathias, Hants). Cause of death pneumonia.

Answered by post.—Lady Douglas Pennant, O. Millsum, (Belguim).

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

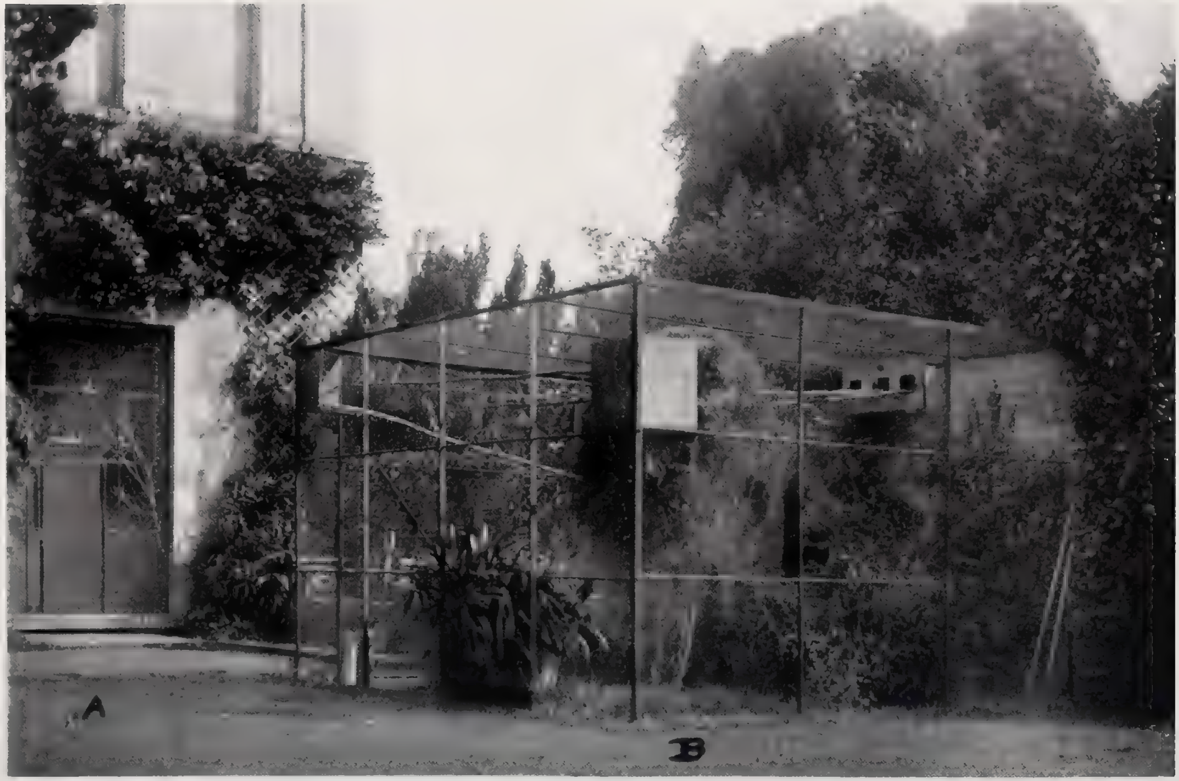

Photo by Capt. J. S. Reeve.

Capt. J. Sherard Reeve's Aviaries.

A.—The Old or Indoor Aviary.
B.—The Outdoor Aviary.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Aviaries and Birds.

BY CAPT. SHERARD REEVE, F.Z.S.

In the photo reproduced herewith, are to be seen both my indoor (A) and outdoor (B) aviaries, of the former only the wire-front is to be seen, as it is a portion of the house. The outdoor aviary needs no description, as the photo at B depicts this clearly, save to state that it is about four yards square by six and a half feet high, and has a substantial shed at the back. I also tried to photograph the little St. Helena Waxbills, which have been bred in the aviary this season, but they were not so distinct as I would like.

The inside aviary marked A in the photo, has already been described in an earlier volume of *Bird Notes*, nothing further is called for than to state that I have had no success in it in the breeding line, but probably the following brief notes may prove of some interest.

LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCHES *(Poephila acuticauda).* Two fine young birds left the nest on November 7th, 1909, being reared on seed only—both died before Xmas.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS *(Agapornis nigrigenis).* I bought a pair of these birds from our member Mr. H. W. Mathias on March 10th last; these began to nest about the middle of April—a clutch of eggs was laid and duly incucubated for a considerable time, but to no purpose; since which they have made no further attempt at nesting.

GRENADIER WEAVERS *(Pyromelana oryx).* These arrived from Cape Colony in 1909, out of colour, one showed colour on August 8th, and the other on August 29th; both began to go out of colour about the middle of November. This year they began to don their nuptial dress on April 23rd, and are now (October) donning their plain winter garment.

GOULDIAN FINCHES *(Poephila mirabilis).* These shewed signs of breeding, but the hen died egg-bound on September 14th, the cock is now perfect and in beautiful plumage.

Hooded Siskin *(Chrysomitris cucullata).* I bought a nice cock at Wilson's on May 20th, but have been unable to procure a hen, it is now in fine condition, with very tight and silken plumage.

Pelzeln's Saffron Finch *(Sycalis pelzelni).* These shewed signs of breeding, but some weeks after I picked the hen up dead—I had missed her and thought she was nesting somewhere.

Blue-winged Lovebirds *(Psittacula passerina).* The proper name for this species is Passerine Parrakeets but they are more popularly known as Blue-winged Lovebirds. They showed signs of nesting about the end of May; just at this time I was called away for three weeks and found them on my return in a very emaciated and dishevelled condition—I cannot imagine what brought this about—the cock died but the hen recovered and I have since procured her another mate, but they do not seem to take to each other yet very lovingly.

St. Helena Waxbills *(Estrilda astrilda).* These had two or three nests, but all to no purpose.

The covert in this, my old or indoor aviary, is evidently not natural enough to induce Finches, Waxbills, etc. to nest.

Out-door Aviary: After the above tale of woe I will relate my experiences in the open aviary, built last autumn, and occupied this spring. Here I have kept—

1 Grenadier Weaver ♂
1 Napoleon Weaver ♂
1 pair Red-headed Weavers
1 pair Cape Canaries
1 Canary ♀
1 St. Helena Seed-eater ♂
2 pairs Avadavats.
1 pair St. Helena Waxbills
1 pair Chinese Painted Quail

Grenadier Weaver *(Pyromelana oryx).* This cock paired up with a hen Weaver (species unknown). He built three nests, in the last of which the hen deposited two eggs and died with the third from inflammation of the oviduct on July 3rd. It was then very cold.

Cross Mating: The hen canary paired up with the cock Cape Canary, and a nest was constructed early in April—the first clutch was infertile; a second clutch was duly laid and about May 26th, a young chick was hatched out and fully reared. The young hybrid is hardly to be distinguished from a hen Cape Canary—the hen Canary is bright yellow! Three more infertile clutches have since been laid.

St. Helena Waxbills *(Estrilda astrilda).* The Waxbills have been the encouraging feature of the year with me. A nest was built entirely of hay in June and eggs were laid, but got destroyed. But they soon made a fresh start—another nest of hay was completed about July 3rd, and eggs were duly deposited. This time all went well, both parents shared the duties of incubation, and five young chicks were hatched out about July 27th. On August 14th they all left the nest, being quite strong on the wing, and were really finely developed young birds. Both parents assiduously fed the chicks, which were reared on millet, gentles, and ants' eggs. On August 18th they began to feed themselves. One young bird died on August 29th, but the other four are all in perfect condition. Altogether in the flight, this little flock of "Roodebecs" were most delightful and charming to watch. I have taken the parents and two of their young into the house, where they occupy a roomy cage. The other two young birds I purpose leaving out through the winter.

These charming and interesting birds are also known as Red-bellied Waxbills and Pheasant Finches.

Amadavats *(Sporæginthus amandava).* I have two pairs of this delightful species, but the hens only came into my possession on June 5th. The cocks were almost in the full brilliance of nuptial plumage on July 12th.

No. 1 pair built a tiny spherical nest in the shed attached to the flight, and by August 10th were engaged in incubating a clutch of five eggs; both sexes sharing this duty; five young chicks were hatched out on September 6th.

On September 15th, four young birds left the nest, but one died on the ground only half fledged, the other three are now quite strong and fending for themselves. For the first two or three nights they slept in the nest, retiring there about 4 p.m., in this they differ from the St. Helenas, who never returned to the nest after the day they left it so far as my observations went. They were reared on similar food to the St. Helenas—the supply of ants' eggs and gentles not being so large.

The first day the little Avadavats left the nest the Napoleon Weaver started to jump on them and I ran for a butterfly net vowing that alive or dead he should be captured; after causing *terrible* commotion I bagged him safe and sound, fortunately without detriment to the other inmates!

No. 2 pair constructed a tiny spherical nest in a low bush, which was completed about August 16th. On September 14th incubation duties were complete for there were young birds in the nest.

Two young birds left the nest on October 2nd, and were still being fed by their parents on October 17th, when I last observed them. I propose taking all the Avadavats into the house for the winter, as I wish to empty the aviary a little.

CHINESE PAINTED QUAILS *(Excalfactoria chinensis)*. I procured a pair of this beautiful species from our member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, and though they are pretty, interesting and distinct from finches, etc., and also have done well, yet I am disappointed that they have made no attempt at nesting. This is rather surprising, as there is rough grass and other covert for them. However, aviculture is full of disappointments, as well as abounding in interest and pleasure.

The above aviary was only completed this spring and I am now contemplating another open-air aviary, of the same type as the present one, but larger, with a flight about 8 yards square, and hope to have it ready for next spring and to meet with better luck.

L.C.B.A. International Show.

FOREIGN SECTION—BY W. T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

The 22nd Annual Show, held by this enterprising Society at the Horticultural Hall from November 25th to 28th inclusive, was in no sense behind its predecessors and the management are to be congratulated on an all round success. With the exception of the closing day when the hall was too hot, the conditions were ideal for the feathered competitors.

The total entries for the show were slightly in excess of last year, while in this section the entries were 125, being an increase of 5 on the previous year; over 100 of these were from members of the F.B.C.—thus, these notes are really an account of OUR MEMBERS' BIRDS.

The feature of this year's show may well be said to be the advent of R. Pauvvels, Esq., as an exhibitor at British Shows Our esteemed member sent over a grand team of rare and unique birds, among which we may mention Greater Bird of Paradise, Blue Budgerigars, Cuban Woodpecker, Black-winged Grackle, Black-capped Lory, Uvæan Parrakeet, Blue-winged Grass Parrakeets, etc.

Mr. C. T. Maxwell, exhibited among others, the following rarities:—Queen Alexandra's Parrakeet, Mitchell's Lorikeet, Red-rumped Weaver, Blue and Black Tanager, Black-throated Chatterer, Banana Quit, Great-billed Flycatcher, Violet Manucode, Mexican Trogon, and a hen Manakin (species?).

Mr. A. Sutcliffe exhibited two species of Banana Quits—*Certhiola flaveola* and *C. luteola*—Vieillot's and Desmarest's Tanager, and true pairs of Colombian Siskins, and Fire-red Finches.

Mrs. K. L. Miller exhibited some rare and uncommon species in faultless condition, among others were:—Sun Conure, Rainbow Bunting, Festive Tanagers (true pair), Peach-faced Lovebirds, and a hen Verditer Flycatcher.

Mr. S. M. Townsend, exhibited among others, the following in his usual faultless style:—Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeet, Banana Quit, Rufous-throated Tanager, Yellow-winged Sugar Bird, Giant Barbet, and a unique Jerdon's Bulbul (♀).

Other members exhibited many beautiful and uncommon birds which will be noted in reviewing the respective classes.

A few notes on the rarer and unique species will not be out of place here:—

THE GREATER BIRD OF PARADISE *(Paradisea apoda)*. This fine exhibit was naturally a feature of the show, and it was excellently staged in a large and roomy cage, which enabled it space for exercise. It did not display while I was observing the bird, though it was in full nuptial plumage I understand this is only one of many specimens of this as well as other species of Paradise Birds, which adorn the Everberg Aviaries, of which we hope to have an account in our magazine in the near future. That the visiting public appreciated the opportunity of observing this regal bird was abundantly manifest by the congested state of the aisle in its vicinity. The glory of Paradise Birds is their various plumes and appendages, which are only seen at their best when the male displays to his mate. Notes, line, and wash drawings of Paradise Birds will be found in *Bird Notes*, Vols. IV., VIII, and in November issue of current volume.

Blue Budgerigars: Monsieur Pauvvels is to be congratulated on acquiring so beautiful a colour variety of this popular species, which for chaste beauty is far ahead of any of its predecessors. As we are figuring this variety in January issue of *Bird Notes*, we merely remark, that the variety has been obtained by careful selection over a long period—it is a typical Budgerigar as to form, contour, and markings, but, the *yellow has been bred out*, leaving as a result, the dusky black undulations of the upper surface their usual colour, the yellow areas and feather margins being replaced by white, and the green by blue—we reserve further comment to accompany the coloured plate.

Temminck's Robin *(Erithacus komadori)*. An exceedingly rare and interesting species—a typical robin in contour, demeanour, and general characteristics—rare even in its native haunts, for the British Museum possesses but two skins. It is a native of the Loochoo Islands, and this specimen was obtained in Japan. The upper surface is rich orange-chestnut, and the under parts are black and white. We reserve further comment, as it is to figure on a coloured plate in the course of next volume. This fine specimen was purchased by our esteemed member H. D. Astley, Esq.

Blue and Black Tanager: A rare, beautiful species, which I did not recognise, neither does it agree with Sclater's figures of the Blue and Black or Black and Blue Tanagers ; and I have no time to look the matter up before going to press, but as this and the following species are to figure on a coloured plate in the course of our next volume, further comment is reserved.

Vieillot's Tanager: *(Calliste vieilloti)*. A beautiful sub-species which I believe is new to aviculture the upper parts are the richest of blue and black, with the abdomen and under tail-coverts yellow. Fuller details will appear with plate.

Black-throated Chatterer: I take this rare and beautiful species to be a female of *Procnias tersa*,* the male of which is resplendent with shining torquoise-blue, and satin-black. She is a beautiful and interesting bird clad in green, marbled with brownish and yellowish. It is a native of South America—Colombia to Bolivia and Brazil. I shall hope to refer to the species in a later issue.

CUBAN WOODPECKER: A very interesting exhibit and one of the rarest birds in the show, where it created much notice, as it unconcernedly hammered away at the cork-bark lining of its cage. The upper surface was pale grey, broadly lined (transversely) with black, crown shining crimson, under parts pale tawny. . . . . a beautiful and interesting species.

To save needless repetition, I will state here, that with one or two exceptions, in which the signs of the moult still lingered, all the exhibits were perfect, the exceptions also being very tight and silky in plumage.

Mr. H. D. Astley judged, and his placings were not so well received as usual, but the task was a difficult one.

BUDGERIGARS, LOVE BIRDS, AND HANGING PARROTS (13).

1 and vhc, R. Pauvvels, Blue Budgerigars and Guiana Lovebirds; 2, S. M. Townsend, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot; 3, C. T. Maxwell, Red-crowned Hanging Parrots; 4, Mrs. K. L. Miller, Peach-faced Lovebirds; vhc and c, Mrs. C. Cooper, Yellow Budgerigars and Black-faced Lovebirds; c, D. Steer, Green Budgerigars; Mrs. Hodgkin, Black-faced Lovebirds; Countess von Hahn, Red-headed Lovebirds.

The Blue Budgerigars, already noticed, were the feature of this class, and the aisles in their vicinity were continuously more or less blocked, and Monsieur Pauvvels is indeed to be congratulated on so rare and interesting a possession; he also exhibited a nice pair of uncommon Guiana Lovebirds, which were introduced to British aviculture by our esteemed member, Mr. E. W. Harper. Other F.B.C. members are to be congratulated on the excellence of their exhibits 'Mr. Townsend's exquisite Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, we have noticed in past seasons; at present its hues are richer than ever, and its condition flawless. The same applies to Mrs. K. L. Miller's Peach-faced Lovebirds, once almost common, now but seldom to be obtained—also Mr. C. T. Maxwell's Bengal Hanging Parrots were both uncommon and in excellent trim. Excellent specimens, both as to colour and condition, were the Red-headed and Black-faced Lovebirds and Budgerigars.

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* Vide page 138 of current Vol.

ALL SPECIES OF PARRAKEETS, LORIKEETS, AND LORIES (14).

1, 2, 4, and vhc, R. Pauvvels, Uvæan Parrakeet, Red-naped Lorikeets, Black-capped Lory, and Blue-winged Grass Parrakeets; 3 and vhc (2), C. T. Maxwell, Mitchell's Lorikeet, Queen Alexandra's and Brown's Parrakeets; extra 4th, Mrs. K. L. Miller, Sun Conure; vhc, S. Williams, St. Thomas's Conures; T. Miller, Purple-capped Lory; C. H. Row, Violet-necked Lory; c, Rev. G. H. Raynor, Adelaide Parrakeet.

A strong class, all of which may be classed as rare or uncommon, and however strongly some disagreed with the other placings, none will do so with the perfect specimen of the rare Uvæan Parrakeet which was placed first. This species, of which a coloured plate appeared in September issue of current volume of "B.N.," is very difficult to keep, but the condition of this bird was beyond praise. The Black-capped Lory, a strikingly beautiful bird, and the Blue-winged Parrakeets barely got their merits, while the Red-naped Lorikeets, though perfect, were favoured. A good specimen of the rare Queen Alexandra's Parrakeet was very hardly treated. Another rarity was Mitchell's Lorikeet, which, save for a specimen at the Zoo, is the only other living specimen in the country. Yet another grand exhibit certainly not unduly favoured, was Mrs. Miller's gorgeous Sun Conure, whose brilliant plumage may well be likened to a glorious sunset. An Adelaide Parrakeet shown by the Rev. G. H. Raynor, appeared to the writer to be a hybrid, most probably between an Adelaide and Yellow-rump. I may mention in passing, for the benefit of new readers, that the staple dietary of Lories and Lorikeets is milk-sop and ripe fruit.

ALL SPECIES OF PARROTS, MACAWS, AND COCKATOOS (4).

1, Rev. G. H. Raynor, Meyer's Parrot; 2, Thorpe, Yellow-naped Amazon; 3, H. Smith, Greater Sulphur-crested Cockatoo; 4, A. Stubbings, Blue and Yellow Macaw.

This class calls for but little comment, the well-known Meyer's Parrot now assuming almost patriarchal age was looking as well as ever, while the Yellow-naped Amazon and the Blue and Yellow Macaw assisted the stewards and created much amusement by shouting "catalogue" at frequent intervals.

COMMON AND GREEN AVADAVATS, AND OTHER NAMED SPECIES (10).

1, Miss M. Bousfield, Red-headed Finches ; 2 and 4, F. Howe, Golden-breasted and Grey Waxbills ; 3, C. H. Row, Orange-cheeked Waxbills ; vhc, R. J. Watts, Golden-breasted Waxbills ; c, S. Williams, Spice Birds ; Allum Bros., Orange Weaver.

This class calls for but little comment, save that it always causes the writer to moralise on what a beautiful and interesting series of birds can be kept without going outside the cheap and freely imported species. The first prize-winners are in the wrong class, and should have been so marked; the judge failing to note this, certainly made rather " hard lines " for the other entrants. There were three Orange Weavers in this class, one of which was the most brilliant we have seen, being fiery orange-scarlet, a second was a typical specimen while the third was intermediate between the two. A friend informed me that a number of these richly hued birds had been in the dealers' hands recently, probably a local variation.

All Species Waxbills, Mannikins, etc. (6).

1, F. Howe, Melba Finches ; 2, S. Watson, Jamieson's Waxbill ; 3, J. C. W. Meadows, Aurora Finch ; 4, Rev. J. M. Paterson, Chestnut-breasted Finch.

This class was not so well filled as usual, as out of 6 entries there was one absentee and a pair of Golden-breasted Waxbills wrong-class. The 1st prize winners a lovely pair of Melba Finches, which for general fitness, richness of colouring and clean cut markings, were about the best I remember to have seen. The second prize bird was an interesting and uncommon Jamieson's Waxbill, which is most briefly described as a sombre Fire Finch, very handsome and fit. The Aurora Finch, standing third, was also a deep and richly coloured specimen, and the same may be said for the Rev. Paterson's Chestnut-breasted Finch, very few of the latter have been on the market of late.

All Species of Grassfinches, Weavers and Whydahs (12).

1 and 4, C. T. Maxwell, Red-rumped Weaver and Painted Finches ; 2 and vhc, Miss M. Bousfield, Tri-coloured Parrot Finches and B.H. Gouldian Finches ; 3 and c, Rev. J. Paterson, Long-tailed Grassfinches and Pin-tail Nonpareil ; c, R. J. Watts, R.H. Gouldian Finch ; C. H. Row, B.H. Gouldian Finch.

This class was a fairly strong one and contained some beautiful and interesting exhibits, foremost among which was Mr Maxwell's rare Red-rumped Weaver *(Dinemellia dine-*

melli), quite a large species and by no means so beautiful as some of its commoner congeners. A beautiful exhibit was a pair of Tri-coloured Parrot Finches, which at the present time are more plentiful than the common Parrot Finch, which, however, is not placing them as by any means common. Some half-dozen of the ever popular, but somewhat disappointing Gouldian Finches were entered here, all Black-heads, with one exception, and all in finest condition, and some of the best coloured specimens the writer has seen. Mr. Maxwell also exhibited a good pair of Painted Finches, very fit, but lacking, as is usual, at this season, much of the solid scarlet colouration on the sides of the head, which is such a feature of the breeding season. An exhibit entered as a Black Weaver appeared to be merely a melanistic Orange Weaver.

ALL SPECIES GROSBEAKS, TRUE FINCHES AND BUNTINGS (10).

1, Mrs. K. L. Miller, Rainbow Bunting ; 2, A. Sutcliffe, true pair Colombian Siskins ; 3, C. T. Maxwell, Cuban Finch ; 4, J. C. W. Meadows, Black-headed Siskin ; vhc, S. Williams, Yellow Abyssian Sparrow ; Mrs. Hodgkin, Green Cardinals (pair) ; c, Mrs. C. Cooper, Green Singing Finches.

The feature of this class was Mrs. J. L. Miller's lovely Rainbow Bunting *(Cyanospiza leclancheri)*. A coloured plate and full description appeared in *Bird Notes* Vol. VIII. It is a near relative of the well-known Nonpareil Bunting, and is a marvel of brilliant, yet soft and chaste colouration—it retains its full depth of colouring in captivity—this bird was almost as much enquired after as the Bird of Paradise, and Blue Budgerigars, and fully deserved its popularity and premier position. Mr. A. Sutcliffe exhibited true pairs of Colombian Siskins *(Chrysomitris colombiana,)* which were described and figured in colour in Vol VII. of *Bird Notes,* and Fire-red Finches *(Spermophila minuta)*, the latter being the more uncommon, but were rather rough and still in the moult. Mr. Meadows exhibited a Black-headed Siskin *(C. icterica)*, which was described in Vol. VII " B.N." page 33. It may be well to note the distinguishing features. The Colombian Siskin has the top of the head and whole of the upper surface blue-black, with the under parts yellow. The Black-headed Siskin has the whole of the head black; the upper surface olive-green, and the underparts yellow. A species not seen for some time on the show bench was a well coloured specimen of the Abyssinian Golden Sparrow *(Passer luteus)* which was described and figured in colour in "B.N." Vol. III., p. 169., an interesting species for the aviary or cage, not difficult to breed. Very few have been imported of late years. True pairs of Green Singing Finches, very rich colour, and Green Cardinals, were also exhibited.

All Species of Tanagers (12).

1, 2, 4, vhc and c, C. T. Maxwell, Blue and Black, Black-throated, Black-backed and Rufous-throated Blue Tanagers, Black-throated Chatterer ; 3, Pitchford and Stocker, Necklace Tanager ; vhc, Mrs. K. L. Miller, true pair Festive Tanagers ; R. J. Watts, Mrs, Hodgkin, S. M. Townsend, all Rufous-throated Blue Tanagers ; A. Sutcliffe, Yellow-bellied (Vieillot's) Tanager ; c, A. Sutcliffe, Desmarest's Tanager.

The placings in this class were not well received. All the entrants with the exception of Necklace Tanager being very uncommon or unique, so that it became mostly a question of rarity, and this point appears to have been very largely overlooked. There were four specimens of outstanding rarity, all probably first appearances on the show bench, and in three instances probably the only living specimens in the country, viz., the Black Chatterer, Yellow-bellied *(Viellot's)* Tanager, Blue and Black Tanager, and Desmarest's Tanager, all but the Blue and Black hardly treated. The Desmarest's was however, not in full adult plumage and was looking very soft the first day of the show, but was quite fit on the Saturday. Mrs. Miller exhibited a unique pair of Festive Tanagers, very rich in colour and in faultless condition, very hardly treated. A good Necklace Tanager was very favourably treated comparatively with its competitors. The Black-backed Tanager *(C. melanonata)* made a welcome re-appearance, this species was described and figured in B.N. Vol. IV., p. 171. A feature of the class was the number of Rufous-throated Blue Tanagers, which only a season ago was unique and is now becoming almost common; by the way, it is not a Tanager, and a better name would be the Rufous-throated Blue Sugar bird, as it forms a sub-family of the *CŒREBIDÆ*, viz., *GLOSSIPTILINÆ*, of which it is the sole representative, as *Glossiptila ruficollis*, and its proper class is Sugar Birds, etc., but of course, owing to precedent, it had to be judged as a Tanager. Another lovely exhibit was the Black-throated Tanager *(C. thoracia),* a perfect blaze of gorgeous and iridescent plumage.

One could write pages about these lovely feathered creatures, but space forbids.

All Species Sugar Birds, Bulbuls, and Honeyeaters (12).

1, and vhc (2), S. M. Townsend, Yellow-winged Sugar Bird, Jerdon's Bulbul (♀) and Banana Quit; 2, 3, 4, vhc, and c, C. T. Maxwell, Purple Sugar Bird, Yellow-winged Sugar Bird, Banana Quit, Black-headed Sugar Birds (pair), and Purple Sun Bird (♀), vhc and c, A. Sutclffe, Banana Quit's *(Certhiola flaveola and luteola)*; vhc, Pitchford and Stocker, Gold-fronted Fruitsucker.

Another class of gorgeously plumaged Neotropical birds, and worth a long journey to see. Banana Quits, which were unknown on the show bench last season, are now becoming almost common, no less than four being exhibited, three of which were *flaveola* and one *luteola,* the latter being quite new to British aviculture, a coloured plate and description of the former species appeared in the June issue of "B.N." current vol. *Luteola* only differs in being slightly larger and having less white on the wings and outer tail-feathers. Among the more notable entries mention must be made of Mr. Maxwell's Purple Sun Bird, which, though being out of colour, *i.e.*, lacking the gorgeous nuptial dress, and having a few pen feathers showing on the head, was very hardly treated, the Purple Sugar-bird was in like case, this season being its first appearance on the show bench, a rich variegation of shining satiny purple and black. Mr. Townsend's now almost patriarchal, Yellow-winged Sugar-bird, was absolutely without a flaw, and its plumage appears to increase in depth and richness of hue with each succeeding moult. Another rare exhibit by the same owner was a hen Jerdon's Green Bulbul *(Chloropsis jerdoni),* which, however, was still showing signs of the moult. The body colouration is a beautiful grass-green, with throat of soft sky-blue. A grand specimen of the well-known Gold-fronted Green Bulbul *(C. aurifrons)* completes my notice of a notable class.

Any Other Species Smaller Than King Bird of Paradise (5).

1, A. Ezra, Temminck's Robin; 2 and 3, C. T. Maxwell, Blue-winged Siva and Great billed Flycatcher; 4, O. Puck, Shama; vhc, J. Frostick, Shama.

A small class with three notable exhibits, the unique

Temminck's Robin (already described), Great-billed Flycatcher, and Blue-winged Siva, all beautiful and notable specimens, but the two latter have been several times previously described in our pages. Having already exceeded the limits of space, I must pass on to the next class, merely remarking that two good specimens of the ever popular Shama were among the exhibits.

ANY OTHER SPECIES, KING BIRD OF PARADISE AND LARGER (9).

1, 3, and vhc, R. Pauvvels, Greater Bird of Paradise, Cuban Woodpecker, and Spot-billed Toucanette; 2, 4, and vhc, Mexican Trogon, Crested Wood Partridge and Manucode; vhc, S. M. Townsend, Giant Barbet; c, S. Sandy, Green Mexican Jay.

The feature of this class was Monsieur Pauvvels' Greater Bird of Paradise, which was a centre of attraction the whole period of the show. It was in grand condition, and in full nuptial plumage, which it did ample justice to in its large and roomy cage, being very steady, and but little disturbed by the constant attention it received from the public. The same exhibitor's Cuban Woodpecker also attracted much attention, and was a beautiful, unique, and interesting bird. Mr. Maxwell exhibited a Mexican Trogon, which was more lively than the one he exhibited a year or so ago; his unique and fine Violet Manucode was very hardly treated. The Crested Wood Partridge (*Rollulus roulroul*) very beautiful, with glossy blue-black plumage, reflecting green and purple tints on the back and upper tail-coverts, bill blackish, base of lower mandible red, which is also the colour of the legs and feet, eyelids and bare skin at the back of eye vivid scarlet, the crest is very large and of a maroon-chestnut hue. Other rare exhibits were a Spot-billed Toucanette and Giant Barbet, also a beautiful specimen of the Mexican Green Jay, said to be cage-moulted, *yet retaining all its natural hues.* A pair of very steady Californian Quails were exhibited by the Countess von Hahn, which for Quails were remarkably tame. The Count informed me these birds fed from the hand, followed the maids about and roosted on a high shelf in the servants' quarters. It should be noted that though unique on the show bench, Paradise Birds and Manucodes are well known to visitors at the Zoo.

FOREIGN MULE OR HYBRID:—*Cancelled.*

Open Selling Class—Limit 25/-. (9):

1, Mrs. K. L. Miller, Blue-winged Lovebirds; 2 and vhc (2), C. T. Maxwell, Crimson Finch, Manakin (♀), and Cuban Finch; 3 and 4, Mrs. Clark, Ring-necked Parrakeets; c, Hon. Mrs. Bourke; R. J. Watt, Golden-breasted Waxbills; Mrs. Hodgkin, Green Cardinals.

This class does not call for comment save that we find in it, a modestly clad little bird, which appears for the first time on the British show bench and is new to English aviculture, viz., a hen Manakin (*Pipra sp ?*), the males of which are gorgeously apparelled creatures, while the females are soberly clad in olive-green and have but little attraction apart from the male.

L.C.B.A. Members.—A.V. Seed-Eating (1):

1, R. Pauvvels, Barraband's Parrakeet.

Not seen for some years, a fine exhibit, very rich and pure in colour, grand bird.

L.C.B.A. Members.—A.V. Insect or Fruit-Eating:

1 and 4, R. Pauvvels, White Minahs (Black-winged Grackles), and Ornate Lorikeet; 2, 3, vhc, and c, J. Dewhurst, Coleys, Red-vented Bulbul, Metallic Starling and Shama; vhc, Mrs. Maher, Tri-coloured Tanager; W. A. Shepherd, Larger Hill Minah.

The White Minahs are the only ones that call for note, being unique to the show bench and very steady—they may be described as pure white birds, with black wings and tails; bare skin round the eyes, beak, legs and feet, yellowish. This species is more commonly known as the Black-winged Grackle, there is a specimen in the Western Aviary at the Zoo which simply crawls over you when in its compartment. The other exhibits were all well known species in excellent condition. I must congratulate Mr. Dewhurst on the longevity and condition of his Coleys.

SPECIAL PRIZES AND WINNERS.

Spec. No.

198. F.B.C. Silver Medal for Best Bird in classes 160 to 162.
S. M. Townsend—Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeet.

199. F.B.C. Silver Medal for Best Bird in classes 163 to 166.
Mrs. K. L. Miller—Rainbow Bunting.

200. F.B.C. Silver Medal for Best Bird in classes 167 to 170.
C. T. Maxwell—Blue and Black Tanager.

201. Silver Medal presented by T. Miller, Esq., for Best true pair in class 166.
A. Sutcliffe—Colombian Siskins.

202. Silver Medal presented by T. Miller, Esq., for Best true pair in class 167.

Spec. No.

Mrs. K. L. Miller—Festive Tanager.

203. Silver Medal presented by T. Miller, Esq., for Best true pair in class 168.

C. T. Maxwell—Black-headed Sugar Birds.

204. One Year's Subscription and Entrance Fee presented by R. Pauvvels, Esq., for Best Seed-eater, shown by a non-member.

Mrs. Thorpe—Yellow-naped Amazon.

205. One Year's Subscription and Entrance Fee, presented by O. Millsum, Esq., for Best Soft-bill shown by a non-member.

A. Ezra—Temminck's Robin.

206. Ten Shillings presented by H. Willford, Esq., for Best Bird shown by one who has never won a 1st Prize at L.C.B.A.

A. Sutcliffe, Esq,—Yellow-bellied (Vieillot's) Tanager

207. Gold Medal presented by T. R, Trower, Esq., for Rarest Soft-bill.

R. Pauvvels—Greater Bird of Paradise.

208. Gold Medal presented by T. R. Trower, Esq., for Rarest Hardbill.

R. Pauvvels—Blue Budgerigars.

Point Specials not allocated at time of going to press.

Permit me to remind members of the rule re placing F.B.C on entry form, and also the rule as to Cup Nominations, the failure to observe which, put many notable exhibits out of competition for F.B.C. Medals and Cup.

I must in conclusion congratulate our members on the truly great array of rare and beautiful birds which they placed on the bench in such excellent condition, and also to crave their indulgence, for this report owing to nearness of show to our date of going to press, has had to be written without any research etc. whatever. I venture to hope future reports will be from the pen of an exhibiting member.

Notes on British Section unavoidably held over.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

By Capt. G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(continued from page 282).

The Himalayan Whistling-thrush *(Myiophoneus temmincki).* This is a great favourite of mine, both wild and captive. It is not to be trusted in a mixed aviary. I took home six with me and all arrived but, on being given the freedom of a room, there were ructions and I lost four straight off, not to mention a Grey-headed Ouzel and one or two smaller birds. One of the survivors, who was the culprit

I fancy, had a twisted beak when I caught him; this may have spoilt his temper, but one would have thought it would also have prevented him from doing much harm. They are easy to cater for but require rather stronger insect food than the Ouzels. It is a pity that they seem to lose colour a bit in captivity.

They have a loud and pretty whistling song, which is particularly pleasing at the courting season, when the bird is in the habit of taking slow circular soaring flights, returning to its original perch, singing hard the while. It is found up to 11,000 feet in summer, descending to lower levels and even to the plains in winter (Oates). I have seen it below 4000 feet in summer, and above 6000 in winter. I believe the restricted food-supply of the streams in winter, force the birds to spread out; indeed, at this season, they are common about gardens, well away from the streams they frequent at other seasons. They have a sharp, shrill note, easily heard above the noise of rushing water. Other stream-haunting birds have practically the same note. It is a ground feeder, and it is said to feed principally on snails, which I can well believe, though I have never found the collections of broken shells mentioned by Oates. They are very fond of snails in captivity.

They breed from April to June, building a large nest of moss and roots in a crevice in a rock near a stream.

The Chamba people set such store by the Grey-winged Ouzel as a singing pet, that they rather ignore the qualities of other really good songsters, which they never seem to keep in captivity in spite of their brighter colours. Still, if the Grey-winged is the TRUE Kastura here, the claims of others are half acknowledged by the names given them. The Grey-headed Ouzel (which I believe is the true Kastura in Kashmir) is called the Red Kastura, the subject of this note is the Blue Kastura, while all other thrush beasts are ordinary Kasturas.

Rough description: Blue all over, brighter on the head, wings, and tail, each feather tipped with shining blue or white. The young are dull and lack the shining tips to the feathers. They soon attain adult plumage. Length, 13.5 inches; tail; 5.5.

The Indian Blue Chat *(Larvivora brunnea)* is a perfectly charming little bird. They frequent thick jungle, feeding chiefly on the ground on insects, though in captivity it partakes (like most insectivorous birds) of a certain amount of fruit, berries, and bread and milk. They do not court observation, a casual observer might easily miss them, yet they are by no means shy, and if one penetrates their haunts and keeps still, they will approach quite close to make investigations, and having satisfied their curiosity (which is great), they will carry on their usual business quite at ease, vanishing into the nearest cover at any abrupt movement. Their curiosity, combined perhaps with greed, causes them to fall easy victims to the trapper.

In the aviary, though they could hide in a marvellous way, one or more was always in evidence and attracted much attention from visitors, taking up a perch close to the wire, partly to see what was up, partly to see whether master had his live bait tin with him, tail swaying gently up and down, ready to dash to cover at the first sign of danger, but out again in a few seconds to see if there really is any danger. I lost one lovely cock just before going home through his trying to investigate the interior of a small jug, which was half full of water. I am not in the habit of leaving jugs (or nets) in the aviary, and when I noticed the jug I half expected a young bird casualty, but was astonished to find that so cute a bird had fallen a victim.

Like most other Chats and their kind, they fight like demons among themselves, and the ones I took home had to have compartments to themselves. In the aviary, bar an occasional scrap, they were pretty good as long as their number did not exceed the number of convenient corners. The inclusion of one bird too many resulted in a sort of "puss-in-the-corner" game, which necessitated master having to catch out a couple, and even then they took some time to settle down to corners again. Small seed-eaters they ignored, once they had satisfied themselves that there was nothing interesting in the seed pans. In a mixed aviary, or indeed, in freedom, a bird cannot as a rule afford to dally with a tit-bit; given half a chance the Blue Chats would snatch a mealworm from even a Laughing Thrush, no mean raiders themselves. They would even sometimes snaffle from a Grey-winged Ouzel one of the big earthworms the Ouzel soul loveth, after performing the proper and often lengthy rites of breaking up; this must have been done from sheer mischief, as, though they liked small juicy worms, they never eat the large ones, however skilfully broken up.

I never heard them sing, but shortly before my departure for home. they took to uttering a melodious call-note, very rich and full for so small a bird, so I should not be surprised to find that they are good songsters.

They pass through the Station in considerable numbers on their way down in the Autumn, staying some time *en route* for the plains. I fancy the migration is only vertical. On their way up in Spring they struggle through in a much more scattered way, and I rather think that a stray pair or two may remain to breed. My captives wintered out of doors. I have never found the nest, but, according to Oates it is a small one of moss and leaves in a hole in a tree.

It is a very smart little bird, with longish dainty legs and a rather short tail. Colour above is dull blue, beneath it is bright chestnut of a yellow rather than a red tinge; cheeks black; a very distinct eyebrow extending to the nape white Length about 5.6 inches (Oates) but I think it is a good bit smaller, tail 1.8.

The hen I refuse to attempt to describe beyond stating that she is brown. The young are said to be like the female; I fancy they soon attain adult plumage, as on the Autumn migration, adult plumage cocks are quite as common as hens. I think these birds lose colour as regards the blue parts if caged I remember writing to our Editor soon after catching my birds saying that dull blue did not do them justice, and I had no reason to change my opinion as long as they were in the aviary, but on getting home I must confess that the blue was dull. I have written more than I intended, I do not apologise for the length, but fear I have not done justice to the bird, which is one of my special favourites.

To be Continued.

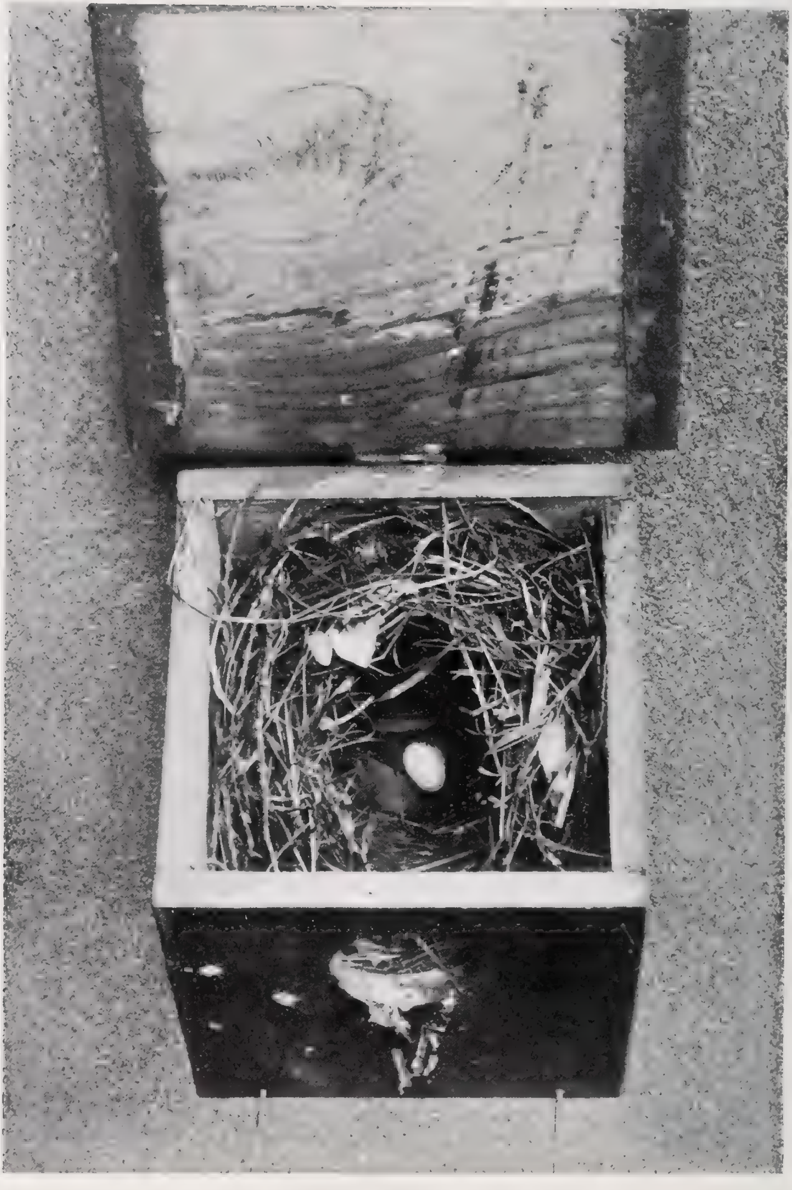

Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A

Nest and Egg of Violet Euphonia.

For detailed description, vide Vol. VI., p. 204.

Foreign Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 336).

Violet Euphonia *(Euphonia violacea).* This common species, common because it has been known for so long and is one of the most frequently imported, is yet one of the most beautiful of the gorgeous family TANAGRIDÆ. As already remarked I believe many of those imported and accepted as Violet "Tanagers" have been some other species, being altogether of a darker hue on the upper surface, than the charming blue of the true *violacea.* In fact, I believe, a male which I have is of some other species, but I am not prepared to define it, till the change to adult plumage is quite complete. Not the least of the charms of this delightful bird is its song, in the aviary this is very pleasing, what it amounts to in the cage I cannot say.

Dr. A. G. Butler, in his "Foreign Finches," quotes the late Dr. K. Russ as follows:—

> "The Common Piper (*der gemeine Organist*)—Sometimes "common in the market. Harmless and peaceable in the bird-" room. Song droll, ventriloquial, intermixed with single pro-" longed sounds and tones not without beauty, industrious; de-" cidedly not a superior songster, however, as it has been fabled. " All these charming organists eat fruit (soft pears they will " empty clean out, right up to the thin peel), soaked egg-bread " in marvellous quantities, and they produce a corresponding " amount of dirt. They are, moreover, very frail, did not live " long enough to breed in my bird-room, though I have had a good " many pairs; hitherto have only gone to nest with Mrs. " von. Proschek, in Vienna, but without result. Price ten to " twelve shillings per pair."*

Not a great deal is recorded as to its wild life, but from the records of various naturalists (W. Forbes, Neuwied, and others) we gather: that it is found both in the vicinity of high forests and gardens; and throughout the whole wooded country of Brazil; that it is a commonly caged bird in the localities where it abides; that it is active, lively, vivacious, and a rapid flier.

Its food in a state of nature consists of many varieties of fruit, but it has a preference for ripe oranges, bananas, guavas, and the like, and therefore works much mischief, and in consequence, is not held in much favour in the cultivated districts.

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* Really lower than their present market value in this country.

The above corresponds in a great measure with its demeanour in the aviary. It has not yet been bred in captivity, but our esteemed member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, has had several nests constructed in his aviary, and also had eggs laid, but so far no young have been reared. In a most interesting and able article in Vol. vi. p. 204, he details his experiences, illustrating them with a photo of the nest and eggs. We may briefly summarise these and his deductions from them as under:

That it is not so delicate as its reputation makes it out to be.

That it should be kept in a large out-door aviary, giving it unlimited exercise, compelling it to roost in the shelter at night, and that under these conditions it will flourish.

That he found it to be almost entirely frugivorous, but that it was also very fond of slugs.

That this species differs from the majority of the *Tanagridæ*, in that it nests either in a hole in a tree, or constructs a spherical nest like that of our common Wren or Long-tailed Titmouse.

That there is no insuperable difficulty in breeding this species, but that two of the essentials leading to success are: a fine summer, and a good large fluke!

May I ask my readers to re-peruse Mr. Teschemaker's able paper in connection with these notes.

Mr. Teschemaker has kindly supplied me with the following later notes, fully confirming the conclusions he had previously drawn:

Altogether he has had four nests of the Violet Euphonia and two clutches of eggs. All the nests have been of *exactly the same type,* domed and built in nest boxes and lined with leaves (see photo). In one or two instances the top of the box has formed the upper part of the dome, the sides having been built up to meet it. A wonderful quantity of material is packed tightly into the box, leaving barely room for the little architects to get in and out. The egg is small, ground colour white, with many small dark red spots and some confluent markings. On September 20th last, when he left home a pair had just commenced to incubate two eggs in the uncovered flight of that aviary and as he did not think they could possibly rear young out of doors in October, he took the nest box down and hung it up inside the heated portion of the aviary. They must have deserted at once because on his return (October 5th) the eggs were perfectly fresh and are now in his collection. The spots on these eggs are larger and of a light red with some purplish blotches.

Our esteemed member Mr. R. Suggitt had a nest commenced in a privet bush, but it was not carried sufficiently far to say what type it would have been when complete.

Personally, I have found the species to subsist almost entirely upon fruit, only occasionally visiting the milk sop, and they will not look at mealworms, but catch quite a number of small winged insects in their indoor enclosure. In the Spring, if they survive the Winter, they will be put out of doors into a large flight, and will, I hope, breed.

Description : *male.* Upper surface and cheeks purplish-blue-black, or perhaps a better description would be blue-black with a purplish sheen; forehead, front of crown, and the whole of the undersurface bright yellow, paler on the sides and ventral region; under-side of wings black; with patches ot white on the inner webs of wing-feathers; tail (beneath) black, with white patches on the outer retrices; bill, legs, and feet black. Total length $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, tail $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Female. Olive-green, with the under surface strongly washed with yellowish; the bases of inner webs of wing-feathers are white.

According to the B.M. Cat. their range is Guiana, Trinidad, Lower Amazonia and S.E. Brazil.

"The S.E. Brazilian form (sub-species *lichtensteini*) is " rather larger in dimensions, but similar in plumage (B.M.C.)"

I have dealt fully with this species, though it is so well known, as it is obtainable in fair numbers, in the hope of inducing our members to make strenuous efforts to breed it next season.

To be continued.

Book Notices and Reviews.

The Home-Life of the Spoonbill, the Stork and some Herons.—By Bentley Beetham, F.Z.S., London. Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, W.C., 5s. net.

We gave a brief notice of this both interesting and fascinating book, to all lovers of wild bird life, in our last issue. It merits this high praise for it is a personal account by the medium of pen and camera of the wild or home life of these birds—there are 32 photographic reproductions of more than usual merit and interest, one of which, by the courtesy of the publishers, is reproduced herewith, and is representative of the whole—a brief quotation referring to the plate in question will best illustrate the merit of the work.

"When the cock returned, I could see by the bulkiness
"of his neck about the ruddy band that he had not come empty
" . . . . The young, on seeing him imitating the actions
"of their mother, were, for young Spoonbills, highly delighted,
"evidently knowing that this was grace before meat. And
"sure enough, after one or two sideway shakes of the head, he
"stooped down, and with a few vigorous gulps opened his bill,
"at the base of which the chicks found much that was to their
"satisfaction."

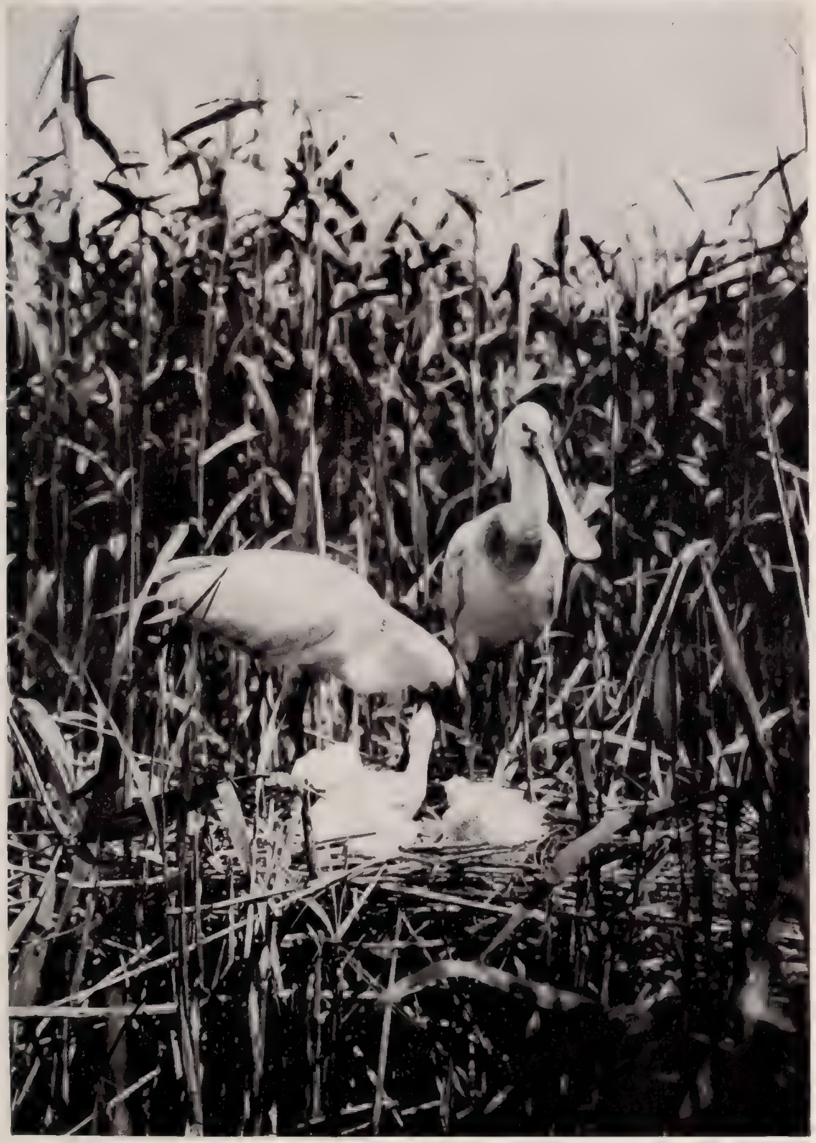
The above quotation may be read as a description of the accompanying plate, fully indicating the descriptive and interesting character of the text and illustrations the descriptive accounts of the Stork and some Herons are equally comprehensive and interesting. We cordially recommend it to our readers.

Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in Cage and Aviary.—Cassell and Co., in monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part IX is to hand, and is of great interest, the chapter on "Judging, etc," is completed and others on "Pedigree or Line Breeding," and the "Norwich Canary" are included. The frontispiece is an excellent coloured plate figuring a group of popular indigenous finches, viz: Bramblefinch, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, and Goldfinch; a number of wash and line illustrations complete the part, which is of more than usual interest.

Editorial.

Our Thanks.— These are due to our esteemed member T. Miller, Esq., whose energies at the L.C.B.A. show in caring for and feeding the Foreign Birds were incessant. We were at the show Friday, Saturday, and Monday, and his care was simply continuous, and the excellent condition of the exhibits really better than when the show opened—was en-



From Life.

Spoonbill Feeding Young.

Reproduced by permission from "The Home-Life of a Spoonbill," by Bentley Beetham.

tirely due to his untiring efforts, and on behalf of the club we tender him our grateful thanks.

A Retrospect.—This issue brings us to the close of another volume, of our club journal and while fully realising all its short-comings, we are assured that all are agreed that it is well up to, if not ahead of any of its predecessors.

The present volume, the first of a new series, contains six coloured plates, viz., " A beautiful Aviary," " Stella's Lories," " Blue-billed Weaver," " Yellow Creeper," " Uvæan Parrakeets," and " Hunstein's Magnificent Bird of Paradise," while numberless half tone and line illustrations, all of which have been of utilitarian or scientific interest, among the latter special mention must be made of the fine series by our esteemed Hon. Bus. Sec., H. Willford, Esq., illustrating the domestic life of various Foreign Birds in his natural aviaries, and we tender to him and all others our grateful thanks and appreciation.

The text matter in our pages, as a glance through the indices will indicate, has been both practical and scientific, providing interesting reading both for the aviculturist and ornithologist—for the tyro as well as those of long standing, and we tender to all our contributors our grateful thanks.

BREEDING MEDALS: These have stimulated emulation among our members, and the presentation of twelve medals to introduce the scheme was a step in the right direction. The following have been awarded:

For Species:

E. J. Brook: Stella's Lory (*Charmosyna stellæ*).

R. Suggitt: Jacarini Finch (*Volatinia jacarini*).

W. E. Teschemaker: Argoondah Quail (*Eupsychortyx leucopogon*).

W. E. Teschemaker: Ruddy Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

W. E. Teschemaker: Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*).

W. E. Teschemaker: Stonechat (*Pratincola rubicola*).

H. Willford: Painted Finch (*Emblema picta*).

For Hybrids:

M. Aronstein: Siskin (*C. icterica* and *C. spinus*).

Lady E. D. Pennant: Sparrow (*P. arcuatus* and *P. luteus)*.

Dr. J. Easton Scott: Avadavat and Zebra Waxbill (*Sporæginthus amandava* and *subflavus*).

Dr. A. Walker: Red-crested and Green Cardinal (*P. cucullata* and *G. cristata*).

Notes or Articles on these successes have either appeared or will appear in near issues.

EXHIBITIONAL SECTION: This has been fully maintained, but we realise there is scope for much extension in this section—list of winners of club medals and cups will be issued at the end of the season, 1910-1911. We cordially thank those members who have presented specials for competition among members at the various shows.

OUR POSITION: We regret that continued appeals have had to be sent round to make up our income and we gratefully acknowledge your patience with and response to same—at the same time we have received many assurances (kind letters etc.), that the course pursued has been the right one—the progress made, if not so large as we had hoped for has been steady and continuous, and two more years of patient *(or only one if every member would only rise to the occasion)* and persistent effort, should see us with an established Magazine worthy of the Foreign Bird Club, and in a sound financial position.

We are glad to state the officers who have so ably served the club during the past year, will again do duty during 1911.

We congratulate the members on a successful year's work.

General News items etc. and many articles unavoidably held over till next issue.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Nesting of the Stonechat (*Pratincola rubicola*).

BY W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

The Stonechat is generally regarded as an essentially non-migratory species, but I expect that the fuller and more careful investigation of the seasonal movements of European species, which has been inaugurated during the last few years, will do much to modify this view. The passage of the Stonechat across the North Sea is looked upon as an event of regular occurence at Heligoland. There is also a considerable local movement of Stonechats in our islands every spring, the result of which is that in some districts, where the species has not nested for years, one will now and again find several pairs in local proximity. Nevertheless, in many districts there are certain favoured spots—often of only a few acres in extent—where Stonechats may be seen every day of the year. In the great bleak wilderness of Dartmoor, amidst the solitude of the eternal "Tors," 1500 feet above sea-level, where no living thing is to be seen save the Buzzard wheeling overhead and a few half-starved moor ponies, where the winter storms are of such severity that on many days even the hardy moorman will not venture to leave his homestead, I know several such spots where you may be certain of seeing Stonechats throughout the winter unless the ground is covered with snow.

We may take it therefore that the Stonechat is a very hardy species, one of the earliest to nest, and crossing the North Sea during the first week of March—and yet, by a strange paradox, its northward range does not extend beyond the extreme south of Sweden, whereas the Whinchat—a sun worshipper, which spends the winter in Central Africa and does not venture to show itself here before May-day—nests even within the Artic circle!

One day last February, I came across a nice pair of Stonechats on one of the foot-hills of Dartmoor and, having a net-trap with me, I soon made a capture of the female. I could find no better accommodation for my captive than a small box containing a puncture-repair outfit, so she had to make the best of it for the time being amongst the "patches," the "solution" and the French chalk. A week later I found the same old male Stonechat in the same place but, whereas I had expected to see a disconsolate widower, I found instead a gallant bridegroom for he had lost no time in providing himself with another spouse. Again the net-trap was requisitioned and again it was the female that succumbed to the temptation of a mealworm. Did I hear someone say that the feminine sex is always the most greedy? A week later there he was again with yet another partner and this time I left him in peace for he seemed so happy on his little patch of gorse and bog, which he evidently regarded as his very own, that I had not the heart to set the trap. I should like to be able to tell you that he brought up a family successfully but, alas, misfortunes never come singly; when I next looked up my friend I found him perched on a block of Dartmoor granite, disconsolately surveying the charred remains of his favourite gorse covert and the still smoking peat: they had been "swaling" the moor and had burnt him out. I never saw him again.

In due course, I obtained an adult male in fine condition from one of our members for a few shillings and turned the three out in a division of the larger aviary, where I have planted reeds and bulrushes. Here the male used to perch on the broken stem of a rush and bow to his ladies, displaying his cinnamon waistcoat, and say "Chat, chat: look at me—what a fine fellow I am." However, I never saw any signs of pairing or nesting and had quite come to the conclusion that my experiment was going to be a failure when, one morning in early June, something caught my eye in the Stonechats' division. There was a mound in one corner covered with a kind of long fine grass which grows on the moor and, in the grass on the side of the mound, I noticed a small round hole a sort of little tunnel leading into the interior of the mound, which I should have thought to be a mouse-run, had I not known that there were no mice in that aviary. I kept my eye on it and a few days later I saw a little brown object creeping cautiously out of the tunnel. It was not a mouse: it was one of the hen Stonechats. A few days later I turned a strong ray of light into the little tunnel by the aid of a pocket-mirror and I saw an exquisite little nest, the cup as round as if it had been turned by a lathe, containing five bluish eggs some of which were unspotted and some clouded with reddish-brown on the upper end.

But, long before the eggs were due to hatch, came the usual and, I think I may say, the inevitable disaster, for this season has been the unluckiest I have ever had and, though my philosophy has not failed me, I must admit that I shall not be sorry to see the back of 1910. One morning I found the hen, which should have been sitting, perched on a stump in a kind of comatose condition. Her wings were drooping, her eyes half closed, her head hung low: every now and then she would wake up, as it were, with a start and then her head would slowly sink again until it touched her breast. I guessed in a moment what had happened; the Tawny Owls had been at work the night before and had frightened her off the nest and in the darkness she had dashed headlong against the wire-netting.

I said "Kismet," and went in to breakfast. But another surprise was in store for us. The other hen—a demure little thing who never seemed likely to distinguish herself—was missing about a week later. I searched for days for that nest, and at last in the long grass at my very feet I saw a bright beady eye. She was sitting on four eggs.

On the 13th July, three young Stonechats hatched: they were covered with sparse whitish down. On the 16th the nest contained one egg, one dead squab and two fine, strong youngsters. Both the parents foraged, and were very expert at catching blow-flies. For the first few days they also carried small seeds to the young. I have noticed this in the case of other insectivorous species and can only guess that the seeds may assist digestion They are not given as food, because their use is not continued, so far as my experience goes, after the first few days.

Their eyes were open on the 18th, and pen-feathers were showing on the wings and along the spinal tract. On the 22nd, they were well feathered, their backs being mouse-brown and their heads striated with dark brown. On the 25th, at 10 a.m., I saw the young Stonechats leave the nest. On the 29th they were flying strongly and jerking their tails after the time-honoured fashion of the *Pratincolae*. The striations on the crown showed up well and they were also lightly striated on the back; the buff margins of the primary coverts formed a kind of bar across the wings.

As soon as the young could fend for themselves I transferred them to another aviary and caught up the adults in order to give them their liberty, because, although we have heard a good deal lately to the effect that birds prefer cage-life to freedom, I must say that my observations do not confirm the suggestion. I like to do a little bird-catching now and again, but what I like still more is setting them free and I notice that, with rare exceptions, they are jolly glad to go. One of the advantages, I think, of keeping British birds (instead of foreigners), is that one can set them free.

I generally use a large net-trap for this purpose, releasing the trigger with a long line. I had used this same trap dozens of times and had never had an accident, but, as I said before, nothing has gone quite as it should this season, and, when I pulled the line for the third and last time, the wire rim struck the bird in mid-air and there lay the limp and lifeless body of the one and only hen Stonechat which (as far as my information goes) ever reared young in an aviary. This was how I rewarded her!

The two young Stonechats soon began to moult and proved to be both males. Their backs became darker and their breasts more buff. By the 10th September, the white patch on the wings was showing well. I released one: the other is still in the aviary in fine condition, and very tame. By the 5th October he had the pure white crescent across the throat and the crown was partially black, and by the middle of November his breast was as deep a tan as that of any adult male.

Nesting of the Reed Bunting

(*Emberiza schœniclus*).

Two years since I contributed some notes to our Magazine concerning the nesting of the Cirl Bunting. This season I made a special effort to breed the Reed Bunting. Regarded as a family, the Buntings cannot be said to be free breeders in captivity, but, when they really mean business they certainly do not do things by halves. My five Reed Buntings (2 males and 3 females) have this summer built four nests, laid sixteen eggs, hatched seven (I removed eight eggs) and reared three young. I have not space to describe the whole of these events in detail. The old pair hatched and tended the young most carefully, but did not succeed in rearing them, possibly because they were rather old for breeding (they had been 2½ years in the aviary). The old male would only pair with one female, but the younger male paired with two hens and assisted both the latter in incubating the eggs. All four nests were exceedingly well hidden, one being placed in pampas-grass, one in sedge and two on the ground in long grass.

The first brood were hatched on the 26th June. There was a small Scotch fir near the nest and I saw the female remove a lot of blight from it, which she carried to the nest; and also dock-seeds. The young were covered with blackish down, and had yellow beaks. They did well for a few days but the last died on the 2nd July.

Meantime, the young pair had not been idle, though I had not had time to look for the nest, but after a long hunt I found it on the following day. It was in the very thickest part of a clump of sedge, and contained four young, several days of age. Two left the nest on the 10th, and the remaining two on the following day. They seemed restless little creatures, continually shifting about in the cover, and gave their anxious parents a lot of trouble in finding them at mealtimes. They were lighter in colour than the adults, and the outer tail feathers were almost entirely white; the upper part of the breast ticked with very dark brown.

One died on the 25th, and two disappeared some weeks later. The remaining one is a good specimen and is now in my bird-room. The old pair laid again but I removed the eggs (as also those of the third female) and released the adults.

This species seems quite suited to aviary life and the male in breeding plumage is a handsome bird, but he is certainly not a success as a vocalist and few aviarists seem to think him worth keeping. In a natural aviary, however, the Reed Bunting flitting in and out of the reeds makes, to my mind, a charming picture, and always reminds me of the many happy days I have spent on the Norfolk Broads with rod and camera.

Sundry Notes In a letter dated October 12th, Dr. P. Gosse (Beaulieu, Hants) writes:

To-day's sudden change to cold and rain has upset all the House Martins. There are about 50 under one gable on this house. One bird, evidently ill, I found sitting on the window-sill. On putting it into the cage for the night, I noticed the enclosed bug moving among the feathers of the bird's back. This may be of interest to some readers of "B.N." —(It is a very interesting occurrence, and I am sending the bug to the British Museum, and on getting their report, will refer to the incident again.—Ed.)

My Garden is well favoured with wild birds—from Cormorants, Kingfishers, and Red-shanks, to Hawks and Goldfinches, I counted a flock of about 20 of the latter this afternoon feeding on garden seeds.

In a letter dated October 24th, he writes:

I saw two House Martins to-day, which must be rather late for them.

The Chiff-chaff was singing in my garden (wild) from the middle of September till the 27th.

Lord Montagu, of Beaulieu, shot a Pin-tail Duck in immature plumage, at the mouth of the river, a little while back, which certainly looks as though the bird did sometimes nest in the South.

On a postcard dated November 7th, he further writes:

When shooting to-day—a Greater Spotted Woodpecker ran about on an oak tree for ten minutes, just over my head.

Correspondence.

YOUNG GOULDIAN FINCH REARED BY JAVA SPARROW.

Sir.—My experience with Gouldians this year has been to say the least, very interesting. You will remember that my initial attempt to breed this lovely finch ended in disaster through rats. I had no thought of my remaining pair attempting nesting this year, as both were immature birds, however, towerds the end of September they rapidly came into full plumage, and rather to my regret commenced nesting—five eggs were laid and duly hatched, and the young were fed for about ten days, then the fine weather broke up and we experienced heavy cold rain. The nest was situated in an exposed position and experienced the full force of the gale; I kept the nest under close observation and found the birds were not feeding properly and on examination found the young apparently dead; but after holding one in my hand and breathing on it gently, I found sign of life and promptly wrapped them all in flannel and held them near the fire—all revived. I knew it was useless returning them to the saturated nest, so I put the strongest of them under a sitting Java Sparrow, and attempted to hand rear the remaining four—I fed them on milk sop up to

the time of my retiring for the night, and left them wrapped up in flannel, but in the early morning they were dead. The one entrusted to the Javas was successfully reared and flew this morning (Nov. 1st). The Gouldians are again incubating another clutch of eggs, in a cage 24 inches x 15 inches x 9 inches, hung in the kitchen.
W. EDMUNDS.

Late News.

Blue Budgerigars: This charming colour variety (see L.C.B.A. report) received the honour of being exhibited before the scientific meeting of the Zoological Society on 29th ult. by Mr. D. Seth-Smith, the Society's Curator of Birds, one of the specimens exhibited of the Horticultural Hall being kindly lent by our esteemed member, Monsieur Pauvvels, for the purpose. Mr. Seth-Smith exhibited the two varieties (Blue and Yellow) and also the species (Green) in the same cage. So far the following varieties have been reported at various times during the past thirty years, viz.: Albino, Blue, Yellow, and Yellow with black upper parts. Fuller details will be given in our next issue.

L.C.B.A. Show: Just on going to press we learn that a protest was lodged against the 1st prize winners (Red-headed Finches) in class No. 163 as being in their wrong class and therefore ineligible to compete. The L.C.B.A. Committee have upheld the protest and disqualified this entry. The Red-headed Finches should have been entered in class No. 164. Class No. 163 is only for the birds *named* in the schedule.

House Martins: The report from Mr. E. E. Austen of the British Museum re Dr. Gosse's interesting note on page 369 of this issue is just to hand. "The specimen sent is the parasitic fly "(*Stenopteryx hirundis*, Linn.), a species found only on the "House-martin. I believe that most if not all House-martins "harbour one or more of these flies, which would seem to be "specially common on the young birds and in the nests. An "allied species (*Oxysterum pallidum*, Leach) is found on the "Swift. These flies belong to the group of Diptera known as the "Pupipara, the females of which do not lay eggs like ordinary "flies, but produce at a birth a single larva, which is retained "within the oviduct of the mother and nourished by the secretion "of special glands until full grown; on being extruded, the "larva almost immediately changes into a pupa or chrysalis."

We are much obliged to Mr. E. E. Austen for his interesting note.—Ed.

Post-Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Siskin ♂. (H. V. Johnson), Southport. Cause of death pneumonia and enteritis, probably due to a chill.

Red Cardinal ♂, and Long-tailed Grass-finch. The Hon. M. C. Hawke). Cause of death in both instances was pneumonia.

Painted Finch ♂. (M. Bousfield, Bournemouth). Cause of death, pneumonia, and enteritis, probably due to a chill.

Hen Green Small Crested Canary. (M. Lock, Brondesbury). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Siberian Goldfinch. ♂. (W. T. Rogers, Essex). Cause of death, inflammation of bowels.

Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot ♂. (W. Sutton). The bird had during life suffered from nasal catarrh, probably due to a chill.

Young Budgerigar (The Countess von Hahn). In consequence of this bird being too young to take a sufficient supply of food during the short and cold days of November, it contracted a chill, or in other words it died from want of a sufficient heat supply. Keep a light in the room, where the young are so that they can feed when they feel hungry during the early night or early morning.

Red-eared Bulbul ♂. (H. V. Johnson, Southport). Cause of death, acute fatty degeneration of liver with hæmorrhage into its substance.

Mexican Quail. ♀. (W. Shore Bailey, Wilts). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Black-faced Waxbill (Dr. M. Amsler, Windsor). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Black-headed Lined Finch (Miss H. Louise Morgan, Edinburgh). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Painted Finch ♀. (H. W. Mathias, Hants).Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by Post—H. G. Jeffery, Mrs. Turner Turner, Frank Howe, Lady Douglas Pennant, H. L. Sich.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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Andrews, F. F., Superintendent's Office, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (Sept., 1908).

Anningson, Mrs., Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge. (Dec. 1901).,

Aronstein, Marks, 30, Grand Parade, Cork. (March, 1906).

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Astley, H. D., M.A., F.Z.S., Benham Valence, Newbury, Bucks. (Dec. 1909).

Austin, W. E., Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (April, 1909).

Bailey, W. Shore, Boyors House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).

Baker, Miss M. E., Granite House, Mount Sorrell, Loughborough. (Sept., 1902).

Bamford, Wm., The Coppice, Werneath, Oldham. (June, 1904).

Beaty, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Cheshire. (March, 1908).

Bliss, H. E., The Croft, Wallingford, Berks. (Jan., 1903).

Boswell, Dr. Alex., Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (May, 1909).

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Botting, H., Mountside, Harrow Road, Dorking. (Dec. 1908).

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Boyd, Harold, Barton House, Didsbury, Manchester. (April, 1903).

Brook, E. J., Hoddom Castle, Ecclefechan, N.B. (March, 1908).

Bromwich, Miss Vera, Pegsden House, near Hitchen, Herts. (Mar., 1907).

Brooksbank, Miss E., Bawtry, Yorkshire. (Nov., 1902).

Brotherton, Kenneth, 5, Tullibody Road, Alloa. Clackmagganshire, N.B. (May, 1909).

Brotherston, G. W., 23, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh. (August, 1909).

Bruce, Miss A., 42, Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London, W. (March, 1909).

Bush, W., The Art Schools, Dock Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Butler, Vincent E., Ingomar, Chepstow Road, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Camps, H. T. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely. (Orig. Mem.).

Capern, F., Avenue House, Cotham Park, Bristol. (Oct., 1907).

Castle-Sloane, C., F.Z.S., Oat Hall, near Crawley, Sussex. (Nov., 1902).

Cecil, Lord William, 23, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. (Nov., 1909).

Chaplin, E. W., The Firs, Great Anwell, Herts. (Sept., 1903).

Cheetham, J., The Hawthorns, Brighouse, Yorks. (Oct., 1908).

Clifton, Lord, Cobham Hall, Gravesend. (Oct., 1905).
Cochrane, Thos., Linden Lea, St. Boswells. (August, 1909).
Cockburn, Mrs., Sutton Rock, Chesterfield. (April, 1909).
Conway-Gordon, Miss V., Longley House, Rochester. (Oct., 1906).
Cook, W., 24, Hyde Park Gardens, London, W. (March, 1909).
Cope-Proctor, Miss M. E., 19, St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincs. (Feb., 1909).
Crisp, R. L., 58, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909).
Croisdale-Kirk, D., Blair Athol, Llanishan, near Cardiff. (May, 1909).
Cronksnaw, J., Peel Mount, Burnley Road, Accrington. (Nov., 1901).
Croysdale, Mrs. B., Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames. (Jan., 1908).
Cullen, J. W., St. Nicholas Works, St. Nicholas Square, Leicester. (Nov., 1908).
Cushny, Charles, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. (Orig. Mem.).

Darrell, Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saints' Green, Norwich. (Sept., 1908).
Dennis, Mrs. Harold, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham, Sussex. (Jan., 1904).
Denton, W., Eastfield, Claremont, Halifax. (March, 1909).
Delacour, J., F.Z.S., 76, Eaton Place, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909).
Dewar, D., Allahabad, U.P., India. (June, 1907).
Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.).
De Yardburgh-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).
Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, N.B. (April, 1906).
Dobie, L. J., Moorland House, Heswall, Cheshire. (June, 1909).
Dobson, Mrs. K. E., The Quarries, Chapel Allerton, Leeds. (June, 1908).
Doherty, Mrs. B., Vernon House, Weston, Bath. (Oct., 1909).
Donald, C. H., c/o The Alliance Bank of Simla, Ltd., Simla, Punjaub, India. (Sept. 1908).
Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B. (Nov., 1907).
Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, co. Down. (Nov. 1901).
Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury, Fairford. (May, 1906).

Ebrill, Wm., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).
Edmunds, J. T., 66, Cowley Road, Swindon. (May, 1908).
Edmunds, W., Coombe Farm, Langton, Matravers, Dorset. (Nov., 1909).
Ellis, Jas. V., 23, Baronsmead Road, Barnes, London, S.W. (July, 1905).

Fasey, William R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbroke. (Jan., 1903).
Finn, Frank, B.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 35, St. George's Road, Regent's Park, London N.W. (Sept., 1903).
Fisher, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey. (May, 1908).
Flannery, M. J., Barrack Street, Nenagh, co. Tipperary, Ireland. (Jan., 1909).
Flower, Capt. S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Giza, Egypt. (March, 1909).
Foster, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (Jan., 1909).
Foster, William Hill, 164, Portland Street, Southport. (Nov., 1901).
Frostick, J., 137, Endlesham Road, Balham, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

Galloway, Mrs. E., 50, Clarendon Road, Bedford. (Jan., 1908).
Galloway, Miss N., 50, Clarendon Road, Bedford. (Sept., 1908).

Galloway, P. F. M., Durban, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading. (Nov., 1907).

Gerrard, John, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).

Gibbons, Miss M., Boddington Manor, Cheltenham. (Dec., 1904).

Goodchild, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, N.W. (July, 1903).

Goodfelllow, W., Montrose, Mount Fleuri, Southbourne Grove, Bournemouth. (Oct., 1908.)

Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, E. P., Maxey Vicarage, Market Deeping, Northants. (Dec., 1902).

Gourlay, H., Kempshott Park, Basingstoke. (Nov., 1907).

Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S. (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, W. (May. 1906).

Grove, H. M., The National and Provincial Bank, High Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Hadley, T. E., 29, 30, and 31, Princess Street, Burton on-Trent. (Mar., 1908).

Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 6, Ashburnham Road, Bedford. (Oct., 1907).

Harrison, J. H., Ellerslie, East Beach, Lytham, Lancs. (Dec., 1901).

Hartley, Mrs. E. A., St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings. (Sept., 1907).

Harvey, Lady, Langley Park, Slough. (June, 1908).

Hatcher, J. F., 168, Upper Thomes Street, E.C. (June, 1903).

Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Mem.).

Henderson, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Nov. 1908).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby. (March, 1907).

Hetley, Dr. Henry, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (Jan., 1908).

Hewitt, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, near Grimsby, Lincs. (April, 1909).

Higginbotham, Mrs. J., Hyde House, Crescent Rise, Luton, Beds. (July, 1909).

Hincks, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton, (Dec., 1904).

Hodgkin, Mrs. B. W., 6, Priory Terrace, Kew, London. (Feb. 1908).

Hollins, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston, Lancashire. (Feb., 1906).

Hollins, B., 9, George Street, Hull. (May, 1903).

Hopkinson, Emilus, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon., Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (Oct., 1901).

Horsbrugh, Major B. R., Morriston Biller, Newbridge, co. Kildare. (Oct., 1909.)

Horton, L. W., Hill House, Compton, Wolverhampton. (Sept., 1902).

Houlton, Charles, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helen's, Lancs. (Nov., 1901).

Howe, Frank, 65, Thomas Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. (Feb-, 1902).

Hoyte, P, S., Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Light and Coke Co., Engineer's Office, Coxside, Plymouth. (May, 1908).

Hubbard, Mrs. D. L. Casa Sta. Monica, Bordighera, Italy. (Jan., 1905).

Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Humphrys, Russell, Southborough, Bickley. (July, 1902).

Huxley, A. J., 57, Bradford Street, Walsall, (May, 1908).

Jamrach, A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E.

Jardine, Miss E. L., Lady Superintendent, Freed Slaves' Homes, Zungaree, Northern Nigeria. (Dec., 1902).

Jeffrey, H. G., 75, Ryle Street, Newport, I.O.W. (Dec., 1909).

Jeffs, W., Pensarn Villas, Victoria Road, Darlaston. (Oct., 1904).

Johnson, H. V., 18, Chambres Road, Southport. (Nov. ,1908).

Kennedy, Lt. G., c/o Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).

Kenworthy, J. M., Meadowcroft, Windemere. (June, 1909).

King, Frank, High Holme Nurseries, Louth, Lincs. March, 1909).

Lamb, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Maldon, Surrey. (May, 1906).

Larner, H. B., Holt, Norfolk. (August, 1909).

Lawes-Wittenrouge, Bart., Sir Chas., Studio, Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W. (Sept., 1909.)

Lewis, J., Corstorphine, Ryde, Isle of Wight. (June, 1908).

Little, Miss C. Rosa, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham. (Nov., 1902).

Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (Feb., 1909).

Lythgoe, G. W. F., 76, Shrewsbury Road, Old Trafford, Manchester. (Nov., 1906).

Malden, Countess Eveline, Wragmore, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard. (Aug., 1909).

Marriner, J. Summer, 4, The Drive, Ben Rhydding. (Oct. 1909).

McDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., F.L.S., 19, Harley Street, London, W. (Jan., 1903).

McLaren, The Hon. Mrs. Morrison, Kepwick Park, Northallerton, Yorks. (Nov., 1906).

McWilliam, Miss, 61, Elm Park Mansions, London, S.W. (Nov., 1907).

Marmont, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, near Stroud. (Oct., 1908).

Master, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov., 1903).

Meadows, J. C. W., 17, Cardiff Road, Luton, Beds.

Mathias, H. W., Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants. (Oct., 1908).

Maxwell, C. T., Southlawn, Acre Lane, Brixton, London, S.W. (Dec., 1903).

Mellor, Mrs., Fair Lawn, Lytham, Lancs. (July, 1904).

Miller, Mrs. K. Leslie, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W. (Jan., 1904).

Miller Tinniswood, F.Z.S., 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Sept., 1907).

Millsum, O., Regent Street, Swindon, Wilts. (July, 1907).

Mitchell, H., Holmfield, Lyndhurst, Hants. (Sept., 1903).

Montague, G. R., 63, Crosted Road, West Dulwich. (Feb., 1909).

Morgan, Miss H. L., 108, Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh, N.B. (March, 1907).

Mortimer, Mrs., Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Orig. Mem.).

Mortimer, Miss, Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Nov., 1908).

Murray, A. L. Keith, 1, Chudleigh Villas, Bideford, N. Devon. (April, 1908).

Newbould, T., Avoca, Linthorpe, Middlesborough. (Dec., 1902).

Newman, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

Oakey, W., 34, High Street, Leicester. (Orig. Mem.).
Oberholser, Harry C., 1445, Girard Street, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (Dec., 1903).
O'Reilly, Nicholas, S., 80, Marine Parade, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.).

Page, W. T., F.Z.S. (*Hon. Editor*), 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, W. (May, 1905).
Partridge, Mrs. Loxia, Richmond Road, Worthing. (Dec., 1905).
Pauvvel, Robert E., Everberg par, Cortenberg, Belgium. (Sept., 1909).
Paterson, Rev. J. Mapletoft, St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, St. Leonard's-on-Sea. (Nov., 1908).
Payne H., The Litte Zoo, Lyncombe Hill, Bath. (May, 1907).
Pennant, Lady Edith Douglas, Soham House, Newmarket. (July,1908).
Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).
Perreau, Capt. G. F., F.Z.S., 2-4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjaub, India. (Dec., 1903).
Perreau, Mrs. R. A. D., 11, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B. (Sept., 1908).
Perring, C. S. R., Melie House, Maldegrave Road, Teddington. (Oct., 1902).
Pickard, H. K., 10, Sandwell Crescent, W. Hampstead, N.W. (Oct., 1901).
Pickles, W. H., Stoneyhurst, Morecombe, Lancs. (May, 1904).
Pilkington, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (Sept., 1908).
Pond, Mrs. T. A., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (Nov., 1902).
Porteous, James T., 10, Alexandra Terrace, Hexham. (Sept., 1903).
Pyke, W., 106, Church Street, Preston, Lancs. (Oct., 1907).

Quait, Mrs. Wortley, St. Brannock's, Mundesley, Norfolk. (April, 1908).

Rattigan, G. E., Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. (March, 1909).
Raven, J. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (Oct., 1909).
Raynor, Rev. G. H., Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (Dec., 1909).
Reeve, Capt., J. S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).
Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (Nov., 1903).
Rhodes, F. W., M.S.A., Roseleigh, Armley, Leeds. (Oct., 1908).
Rice, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie, N.B. (July, 1902).
Riley, S., 6, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester. (March, 1909).
Robbins, H., 25, Campden Hill Square, London, W. (Oct., 1908).
Robson, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (Dec., 1909).
Rogers, W. T., Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex. (Oct., 1907).
Rogerson, Mrs., Feurville, Cheltenham. (Feb., 1903).
Rotch. C. D., Sunnycliff, Cholmondley Road, West Kirby, Cheshire. (Orig. Mem.).
Roth, Fred G. R., 27, Morse Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (Nov., 1908).
Row, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (Dec., 1905.)

St. A. Wait, Miss Louisa, 12, Rosary Gardens, London, S.W. (Dec., 1907).
Savage, A., 16, Rue Gilbert, 16, Rouen, France. (Dec., 1905).
Scherren, H., F.Z.S., 9, Cavendish Road, Harringay, London, N. (July, 1908).
Scott, J. Easton, M.B., Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (Mar., 1908).

Sich, H. L., c/o Dr. L. Lovett-Keays, Endsleigh, East Hoathley, Sussex, and Corney House, Chiswick, W. (June, 1908).
Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire. (Feb., 1908).
Silver, Allen, 11, Foulser Road, Upper Tooting, S.W. (Orig. Mem.).
Simpson, R. E., 9, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (Dec., 1907).
Sladden, J. H., 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft. (Oct., 1908).
Smith-Ryland, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).
Smith, W. S., 24, Jubilee Street, Luton, Beds. (Dec., 1908).
Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Snell, S. H., M.D., 261, Trinity Road, Wandsworth, S.W. (March, 1904).
Somers, Frank, M.R.C.V.S., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (Jan., 1907).
Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (Feb., 1908).
Stocker, J. M., The Villas, Stoke-on-Trent. (Nov., 1908).
Street, E., 75, and 76, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909).
Sturroch, J. P., M.D., "Northcote," Edinburgh Road, Perth, N.B. (Oct., 1908).
Suffolk and Berkshire, Countess of, Charlton Park, Malmesbury. (Feb., 1909).
Suggitt, R., Suggit's Lane, Cleethorpes. (Dec., 1903).
Sutcliffe, Albert, Field House, Grimsby. (May, 1907).
Swaysland, W., 47, Queen's Road, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.).

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks. (Dec., 1908).
Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth, Devon. (March, 1907).
Thomson, John, Officers' Quarters, Powder Mill Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex. (Feb., 1908).
Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa G., 4, Via Silvio Pelico, Florence, Italy. (Dec., 1901).
Townsend, S. M. (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Orig. Member.).
Toye, Mrs. M., Stanhope, Bideford, N. Devon. (Nov., 1901).
Travers, Miss Annette, Kingcraigee, Courtmacsherry, co. Cork. (Dec., 1903).
Treloar, Sir Wm., Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, Surrey. (June, 1909).
Trower, T. R., 442, Caledonian Road, London, N. (Feb., 1908).
Turner, Thos., Cullompton, Devon. (May, 1908).

Vere, The Very Rev. Canon, 21a, Soho Square, London, W. (Nov., 1903).
Vernon, Mrs. Warren, Toddington Manor, Dunstable, Beds. (Oct., 1905).
Vollmar, Paul, 68, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. (Feb., 1909).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (Feb., 1909).
Walker, A., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., The Chestnuts, Westbourne Road, Sheffield. (Dec., 1907).
Walsh, J., 159, Dukes Brow, Blackburn. (Dec., 1908).
Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Carrowdon Castle, Donaghadee, co. Down. (Oct., 1905).
Wardale, H., Willington House, Willington Quay, Northumberland. (May, 1903).
Watts, Rudolph, Wilmar- Wiggenhall Road, Watford. (Nov., 1906).

Webb, Miss Katherine, 35, Barton Road, Cambridge. (July, 1909).

Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead. (Sept., 1907).

Weston, G. E., 66, Woodsome Road, Highgate, London, N.W. (July, 1908).

Williams, P. Victor, Hinstock Hall, Market Drayton, Shropshire. (Dec., 1908).

Willford, Henry, (*Hon. Treasurer* and *Business Secretary*), Uplands View, Haven Street, Isle of Wight. (July, 1908).

Willford, Neville, Haven Street, Isle of Wight. ( ).

Willford, Miss Vera, 6, Wellington Square, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

Wilson, Miss F. M., 34, Charrington Street, London, N.W. (March, 1906).

Wilson, T. N., M.A., Oak Lodge, Bitterne, near Southampton. (Jan., 1902).

Winchelsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Harlech, Merioneth. (June, 1903).

Winble, Chas., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (Dec., 1909).

Woodall, R. M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Hetton-le-Hole, co. Durham. (Feb., 1909).

Wormald, Hugh, Heathfield, East Dereham, Norfolk. (Jan., 1908).

Wright, G. B., c/o G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June, 1908).

Wrottesley, The Hon. Walter B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Apsley End. Hemel Hempstead. (Dec., 1902).

Yealland, James, Haven Street, Isle of Wight. (Sept., 1909).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.

January, 1910.

Roll of Associates.

ACUTT, J., Goodrest, Manor Road, New Melton, Hants. (July, 1907).

BRICKWOOD, Miss EDITH, 3, Ladies Lodge, Dunstable, Beds. (May, 1907).

GREEVEN, Miss M., 29, Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, W. (Oct., 1907).

HALLIDAY, CHARLES, Bridge Street, Banbridge, co. Down. (June, 1903).
HAWKE, The Hon. M. C., Wighill Park, Tancaster. (Nov., 1902).
HENTSCH, W. J.. Douglas Villa, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (Jan. 1904).
HYDE and Co., LTD., R., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. (May, 1902).

LOCK, Miss M., 84a, Salisbury Road, Brondesbury, London, N.W. (Feb., 1906).

MARTIN, Mrs. HORACE, 13, Hillside, Wimbledon, Surrey. (May, 1904).

The Hon Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.

RULES.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD-CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members and associates in the keeping, breeding, and exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of **2/6** and an annual subscription of **10-.** Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of **2/6** and an annual subscription of **5/-.** Associates shall have such of the privileges of members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be mope than three months overdue he shall be suspended from all the benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member or associate of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in the Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member or associate accordingly, but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.

3. New members shall be proposed in writing by a member of the Club and new associates by either a member or an associate; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more members lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any candidate he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors. Associates desirous to become members shall go through the same form of election as other candidates but shall not pay an entrance fee.

4. Any member or associate wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.

5. The officers of the Club shall be elected from the members and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Council of twelve members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries and Treasurer shall be elected triennially. The Council and the Judges shall be elected annually by the members in manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council immediately after their own election.

6. The election of the Council and Judges shall take place every year between the 15th of November and the 5th of December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each member of the Club, on or about the 15th of November and the 5th of December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which

of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each member of the Club, on or about the 15th of November, a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each member shall make a (✖) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before the 5th of December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each candidate, and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again shall be deemed a dealer in birds. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council, or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a member of the Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a Committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between members and associates when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give to the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days the proposed alterations or addition shall be submitted to the votes of the members. Failing such objection the alteration or addition shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member or associate at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a candidate at any election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to anoint any member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine.—We would remind all, that if this is to maintain its present position, it can only be done by the aid of all—thus the contents will be varied and universal experience in the keeping of Birds under all conditions will fill our pages for the benefit of all. Accounts of Aviaries, Nesting Notes *(failures as well as successes)*, Field Notes from members abroad, New Acquisitions, Records of Longevity, &c., all alike are of general and practical interest.

British Birds. It is our great desire to see this section grow—will those of our members who keep indegenous species send us contributions—of course the avicultural side is the most important, but original Field and Migration Notes are of great interest, and we trust such will be sent in. We desire that at least one article and a number of short pars. should appear in each issue—photos of birds feeding young, sitting birds, or nests and eggs *in situ*, will be highly appreciated.

Qur Membership.—This, while steady progress has been made, has not been according to our desires *will all join* in a united effort to get 50 new members during the first three months of this year if all join in the effort *it will be accomplished*, The Hon. Business Secretary or Hon. Editor will either send specimen copies direct to any prospective member, or will send copies for them to do so. Make Bird Notes and The Foreign Bird Club known to every bird-keeper (Foreign or British) in your locality, and our membership will soon be doubled.

Subscriptions.—Members are reminded that these are now due and should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at once, being payable in advance.

WESLEY T. PAGE,

Hon. Editor.

Donations.

The following have kindly promised annual donations for a period of three years, as under ;—

	£	s.	d.
A Member	3	0	0
Miss M. E. Baker	1	0	0
W. Bamford	0	10	0
Dr. Easton-Scott	1	1	0
Dr. H. Hetley	1	1	0
Miss R. C. Luke	0	10	0
H. W. Mathias	0	10	6
O. Millsum	0	10	0
W. T. Rogers	0	10	0
W. R. Temple	1	1	0
H. Willford	0	10	6
The Countess of Winchilsea	1	1	0
The Hon. Editor	1	1	0

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations to the Illustration Fund :

	£	s.	d
A Member	1	0	0
Mrs. Anningson	1	0	0
Miss Bruce	0	5	0
Rev. R. E. Gorringe	0	5	0
H. L. Sich	0	10	0
Miss L. M. St. A. Wait	0	10	0
Mrs. Warren Vernon	1	10	0
Miss F. M. Wilson	0	10	.0
The Hon. Editor (to cover balance of postage, artist's fees on special drawings, &c.)	6	6	8
Overpaid on Subscriptions	0	1	6

New Members Elected.

H. D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., Benham Park, Newbury, Bucks.

J. Robson, 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E.

Hon. Gwendolen Bourke, Glenorintten House, Oban, Argyleshire.
Rev. G. H. Raynor, Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex.
Chas. Wimble, Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham.
Miss Vera Willford, 6, Wellington Square, Chelsea, London, S.W.
H. G. Jeffrey, 75, Ryle Street, Newport, I. of W.
J. Frostick, 137, Endelsham Road, Balham, S.W.

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

W. H. Browning, 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A.

Rev. H. A. Soames, M.A., F.L.S., Lyncroft, Bromley, Kent.

G. E. Haggie, Magdalen College, Oxford.

By the Hon. Editor.

The Bird Market.

**All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny ;
Non-Members, three words a penny.**

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES : The following are in stock : Vinacious Firefinch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Hawk-headed Parrot, Violet Parrot, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tri-coloured Tanager, Black-cheeked Tanager, Superb Tanager, Blue and Maroon Tanager, Giant Barbet, Mexican Trogon, Rainbow Bunting, Painted Finches, Waxwings, Senegal Parrot, Gold-fronted Parrakeet, Sepoy Finch, Group of four *Spermophila*, Group of Siskins, Green-billed Toucan and others. These can be supplied to members uncut, for faming, at 1/- each.
Apply The Hon. Editor.

WANTED : Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The Hon. Editor.

FOR SALE : Complete sets of loose parts. Vol I. and II., 21/- each ; Vol. VII., 12/6. New condition. *Apply* The Hon. Editor.

FOR SALE : *The Bird World*, 12 parts, all issued, as new, 3/6 lot.
Apply to The Hon. Editor,
6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

FOR SALE : Three pairs Passerine Ground Doves, 20/- per pair. One pair Pea Doves, 20/-. Four pairs White Winged Doves, 15/- per pair. Yellow Hanguest, 30/-. Any of these sent on approval.
R. Suggitt, Cleethorpes.

FOR SALE : Adult Redrump hen, 14/-. Roseate Cockatoo, 12/6. Pair Ringnecks (one very tame) 10/- All from outside aviary and in fine condition. Mrs. Croysdale, Sunbury-on-Thames.

OFFERS WANTED for Vols. I., II., and III. Bird Notes, bound, clean, and perfect. Cronkshaw, 252, Burnley Road, Accrington.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the Crystal Palace Show, as this is the last Show of the season it is hoped that all our exhibiting members will do their best to support it.

Crystal Palace. –February 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th. Classification for ten classes for Foreign Birds. Silver Cup (see rules, winner to receive a Silver Medal in token of having won the Cup once) and Silver Medal. Judges : Messrs. Camps and Russell Humphrys. Entries close January 22nd. Schedules from Mr. J. W. Ramsden, 11, Josephine Avenue, Brixton, London, S.W.

The following results are to hand regarding specials. –**Luton,** Mr. F. Howe, Bronze Medal, with Tricolour Tanager.

S. M. Townsend,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

Post-Mortem Examinations.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. Hy. Gray M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, W., are as follows:

(1) The birds must be sent IMMEDIATELY after death.

(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3) *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B. Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to

- (*a*) date of death,
- (*b*) length of illness,
- (*c*) symptoms of illness,
- (*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
- (*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in "Bird Notes" but *under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of* 2/6 *accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all members whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Subscriptions: These became due on January 1st, and to save the Hon. Business Secretary's time and the funds of the club, it is requested that all who have overlooked this, will promptly remit their subscriptions for the current year.

Donations, etc.: We tender our thanks for the hearty responses that have been made, so that there may be no retrogressive policy either as regards the Magazine, or the general policy of the Club. We would however point out to those who have not yet sent in their replies, that this year will have to bear special burdens, such as a cost of transfer of stock, etc., in consequence of the change of printers and publishers, and we trust and feel assured that all will do what they can to meet the special necessities of the period.

The Coloured Plate: We have made a new departure this year. In response to many requests for a coloured plate of some large aviary, and Mr. Willford kindly offering to have his painted and loan it to the club for reproduction, this offer was accepted and Mr. Willford thanked for his generosity. It was found that when the reproduction was taken in hand, that no satisfactory result could be got on the usual size plate, and it was decided to issue the plate as distributed herewith. It should have appeared with the January issue, to accompany the article "My Wilderness Aviary," but though the issue was held back, it was not possible to complete in time. Members can either have the plate folded and bound up with the magazine, or keep it detached. Extra copies of the plate can be obtained from the publisher (Mr. J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby), at 1/6 each, including tube and postage.

Contents of Magazine: We wish to point out that the arrängement of contents has nothing to do with the merits of respective articles, but the position given to each is solely one of convenience, to suit plates, etc.

Copy for Magazine: This is much needed, and, if contents are to be kept varied, we ought not to publish from "hand to mouth" as it were. Will members kindly send copy in as early as possible. We venture to indicate a few suitable topics. Recent acquisitions. General accounts of aviaries and occupants. Special groups of birds.

Nesting Notes: The Editor requests that he may be kept thoroughly posted as to these, as the topic is of general interest, and should result in the placing on record of facts of universal interest. All should aim at having dates and periods strictly correct.

British Species: All keepers of indigenous species are urged to send accounts of their birds; also migration and general field notes are solicited.

Members residing Abroad: We strongly urge all such to send us avicultural and field notes of the countries in which they reside, if possible, with photos of birds and nests *in situ*, and localities.

Members' Gatherings: As will be seen elsewhere we had our first public Club gathering at the Crystal Palace on February 5th inst, when after tea, points affecting the club's welfare were discussed, and will in due course be considered by the Council. Two meetings (as experiments) were arranged for at the Zoo, on Wednesday, April 20; and Saturday, May 7. The rendezvous in each instance being the Small Birds House, and the time 2-30 p.m. We hope a good number will be present.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Marriner, J. Summer, 4 The Drive, Ben Rhydding.
Lythgoe, G. W. F., 76 Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford, Manchester.
Kirk, D. Croysdale, Blair Athol, Llanishen, Nr. Cardiff.
Jeffrey, H. G., 75 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight.
Humphreys, Russell, 67 St. James' Court, Buckingham Palace Gate, London, S.W.
Riley, E., 66 Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester.

New Members Elected.

W. H. Browning, 16 Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A.
Rev. H. A. Soames, M.A., F.L.S., Lyncroft, Bromley, Kent.
G. E. Haggie, Magdalen College, Oxford.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Harold E. Attwell, "Cassia Grove," Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Jos. E. Mackenzie, Chetolah Park, 21 Slipe Pen Road, Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

By A. Sutcliffe and W. T. Page.

Mrs. J. Easton Scott, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey.
Mrs. Lydia Clare, The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.
By the Hon. Editor.
Miss C. W. Thorburn, 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. By T. Miller, F.Z.S.
R. E. Bright, Sunnybank, Coggeshall, Essex. By C. H. Row.

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations to the Illustration Fund:

	£	s.	d
Miss Drummond	0	15	0
Mrs. B. Mortimer	1	2	6
Lady Pennant	0	10	0
Mrs. Perreau	0	2	6
Capt. G. A. Perreau	0	10	6
Lady K. Pilkington	0	10	0
H. Wardale	2	0	0

Donations.

The following have kindly promised annual donations for a period of three years, as under ;—

	£	s.	d.
J. V. Ellis	1	1	0
J. H. Harrison	0	10	0
J. T. Hatcher	0	10	0
Miss E. M. Hincks	0	5	0
W. J. Lewis	0	10	0
T. Miller	1	0	0
N. O'Reilly	0	10	0
Rev. J. Paterson	0	10	0
Lady Pennant	1	0	0
J. Smith	0	5	0
Hon. Mrs. Somerset Ward	0	5	0

The Bird Market.

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Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES : The following are in stock : Vinacious Firefinch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Hawk-headed Parrot, Violet Parrot, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tri-coloured Tanager, Black-cheeked Tanager, Superb Tanager, Blue and Maroon Tanager, Giant Barbet, Mexican Trogon, Rainbow Bunting, Painted Finches, Waxwings, Senegal Parrot, Gold-fronted Parrakeet, Sepoy Finch, Group of four *Spermophila*, Group of Siskins, Green-billed Toucan and others. These can be supplied to members uncut, for faming, at 1/- each.

Apply to The PUBLISHER.

WANTED : Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.

Apply The PUBLISHER.

FOR SALE : Complete sets of loose parts. Vol I. and II., 21/- each ; Vol. VII., 12/6. New condition. *Apply* The PUBLISHER.

FOR SALE : *The Bird World*, 12 parts, all issued, as new, 3/6 lot.

Apply The PUBLISHER,
Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

FOR SALE : "Bird Notes" Vol. I., unbound, 21/-. Also odd numbers of Vols. I and II, 1/6 each. A Handbook of British Birds, by J. E. Harting, 35 coloured plates ; and The Natural History of the British Isles, by F. G. Aflalo, illustrated by G. E. Lodge ; 30/- the two. All clean and in good condition. Also a superb copy of Rawstom's "Gamonia" ; almost equal to new. Cash offers invited.

W. OAKEY, 34, High Street, Leicester.

BLACK CHEEKED LOVE BIRDS: MR. MATHIAS, STUBBINGTON Fareham, Hants., has several for disposal; bred here in 1909; wintered in out-door bird room. Price 12/6 each. Sex not guaranteed.

WANTED: Hen Australian Plumed Dove.—W. J. LEWIS, Corstorphine,
Ryde, I. of W.

FOR SALE: An Aviary 6ft. square, suitable for centre of lawn. Another with wood back 18ft. long. Both can be dismantled and re-erected in few minutes. Also the following birds: 3 ♂ and 8 ♀ Canaries, 4 Barbary Doves, 1 Turtle Dove, 1 Talpacote Dove, Siskin ♂, Sharp-tailed Finch, Avadavat and Green-singing Finch, pairs each of Nutmeg Finches and Silverbills. Buyer to remove. £6 10s. accepted for quick sale.—Apply in first instance, W. T. PAGE, 6, Rylett Crescent,
Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

Volume I. is out of print.

Of Volume II. & III. there remain only a few copies,

	to Members and Associates	each	21/-
Volumes IV. & V. *with hand-coloured plates*			
	to Members and Associates -	each	10/6
	to others - - - -	,,	15/-
Volume VI. & VII. *with hand-coloured plates*			
	to Members and Associates -	each	15/-
	to others - - - - -	,,	20/-

Cases for binding Vols. I., II., III., IV., V., VI., and VII. may be had, price **1/3** each post free.

Application for Bound Volumes and cases must be made to the Publisher.

Cases for Binding Vol. VIII. now ready, to be obtained of the . . . . . . Publisher.

The Publisher, J. H. HENSTOCK, Market Place, Ashbourne, will be pleased to bind Member's copies at 2/9 each including Cover and return postage.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Subscriptions: These became due on January 1st, and are payable in advance—plates, &c., have to be prepared in advance, and the prompt payment of subscriptions is necessary for the facile working of the Club. Will those who have so far overlooked this, owing perhaps, to the change of period of Club year, kindly remit same at once.

Post Mortem Rules and Notices: Attention is drawn to an addition to same, giving conditions under which members may obtain advice on sick birds.

Members Gathering at the Zoo: The first of these takes place on Wednesday, April 20th; the rendezvous being the Small Bird House, and the time 2-30 p.m. It is hoped a good number will arrange to be present and given fine weather, the event should prove both pleasurable and enjoyable.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Marriner, J. Sumner, Woodbank, Denton, Ben Rhydding.
Galloway, Mrs. E., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, E. Finchley, London, N,
Galloway, Miss M., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, E. Finchley, London, N.
Mitchell, H., Haskells, Lyndhurst, Hants.
Street, E., 75 and 76, Horninglow, Burton-on-Trent.
Browning, W. H., 18, West 54th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

Proposed for Election as Members.

E. W. DeFreitas, Woodlands, Grenada, B.W.I.
By A. Sutcliffe seconded by W. T. Page.
Miss Gilbertson, c/o Mrs. Boden, 13, King Street, Clithero, Lancs.
Mrs. Pattison Yeoman, The Close, Brompton, Nr. Northallerton, Yorks.
By B. Hollins.
Samuel T. Parker, 17, Havelock Road, Norwich.
By the Hon. Business Secretary.
GOSSE, DR. PHILIP, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Nr. Brockenhurst, Hants.
By Dr. M. Amsler.
MAGGS, MRS. VENIE, Oakwell Hall, Birstall, Nr. Leeds.
By the Hon. Business Secretary.
HARRIS, CHAS., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, E. By W. T. Rogers.

New Members Elected.

Harold E. Attwell, "Cassia Grove," Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Jos. E. Mackenzie, Chetolah Park, 21 Slipe Pen Road, Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

Mrs. J. Easton Scott, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey.

Mrs. Lydia Clare, The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

Miss C. W. Thorburn, 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool.

R. E. Bright, Sunnybank, Coggeshall, Essex.

Show Results.

Gateshead. Bronze Medal—Mr. Beaty, with his Hawk-headed Caique.

Edinburgh. Provincial Cup—Miss Peddie Waddall with her pair of Bourke's Parrakeets.

L.P.O.S. London Cup.—Mr. O. Millsum, he having won it before this season it was not awarded.

L.P.O.S. Silver Medal Mr. S. Beaty with his Levaillient's Barbet.

S. M. Townsend, *Exhibitional Secretary.*

BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

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Volume VI., VII. & VIII. *with hand-coloured plates*				
	to Members and Associates	-	each	15/-
	to others - - -	-	,,	20/-

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Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations to the Illustration Fund:

	£	s.	d
Miss Gibbons	0	5	0
Dr. Hopkinson	2	2	0
N. Willford	0	5	0
Hon. W. B. Wrottesley	0	10	0

Donations.

The following have kindly promised annual donations for three years as under, in addition to those already published;—

	£	s.	d.
Mark Aronstein	0	5	0
Lady Dunleath	0	5	0
Miss M. Galloway	0	5	0
Mrs. G. Henderson	0	10	6
H. Mitchell	1	0	0
E. Street	0	10	6
R. Suggitt	0	10	0

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 1 th of the month.
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which are 1/6.
Apply to The Publisher, Market Place, Ashbourne.

FOR SALE: Vol. I. and II. *Bird Notes*, 21/- each.
Ayply, H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, I. of W.

FOR SALE: *The Bird World*, 12 parts, all issued, as new, 3/6 lot.
Apply The Publisher,

BRAZILIAN HANGNEST: Room wanted, been 3 years in owners possession, not finger tame, in good condition, 25/-
Apply, W. T. Page, 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

TWO WICKER CAGES: 16 in. x 20 in. base, 24 in. high. Clean and useable but slightly damaged, cost 16/- each, accept 10/- the two, suitable for small Mynah, Doves, etc.
Mrs. Miller, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

LARGE GREEN BUDGERIGARS: Strong and healthy, out-door bred. 6/6 pair. Large Yellow Cocks, fine birds, 4/- each.
J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne.

WANTED: Hen Brazilian Black-headed Red Siskin.
Thos. Cochrane, Linden Lea, St. Boswells, N.B

WANTED: 2 Hen Parrot Finches, 1 pair Crimson Finches.
Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.

FOR DISPOSAL: 2 Young Black Cheeks (believed to be hen), price 12/6 each.
Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.

Post-Mortem Examinations.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. **Hy. Gray**, M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, W., are as follows:

(1) The birds must be sent IMMEDIATELY after death.

(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3) *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B. Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to

- (*a*) date of death,
- (*b*) length of illness,
- (*c*) symptoms of illness,
- (*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
- (*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in "Bird Notes" but *under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of 2/6 accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all members whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

Mr. Gray will be willing to examine living birds (including poultry, game' aviary, and cage-birds), and give advice as to the treatment of any disease they may have, for a fee of 5s. each bird, the owner taking all risks and paying the carriage both ways.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Donations: Owing to the absence of Mr. Willford on the Continent the list is held over till next issue.

Zoo Meeting: Members are reminded that the first of these gatherings takes place on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th. The place of meeting is the Small Bird House at 2·30 p.m. The second meeting takes place on SATURDAY, MAY 7th, at same time and place, *before May issue of B.N. is published.*—Members please note.

Copy: The Hon. Editor feels that there is altogether too much from his pen in the Magazine from month to month, and he hopes that with the advent of more genial weather, members will contribute accounts of both successful nesting and merely attempts at same.

Month's Arrivals: Members are reminded that they will help greatly, if, when visiting the various dealers, they will make a few notes on any rarities they observe and send them in for publication in the Magazine, for the benefit of members residing in the provences, many of whom write that they find these notes of much interest.

Our Membership: We once more venture to remind members of the need of extending our membership, and to urge that all take a part in this effort, so that our rate of increase may be greater than it is at present. We really need over 400 members to properly support the present Magazine.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec.*

New Members Elected.

E. W. DEFREITAS, Woodlands, Grenada, B.W.I.
MISS GILBERTSON, c/o Mrs. Boden, 13, King Street, Clithero, Lancs.
MRS. PATTISON YEOMAN, The Close, Brompton, Nr. Northallerton, Yorks.
SAMUEL T. PARKER, 17, Havelock Road, Norwich.
DR. PHILIP GOSSE, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Nr. Brockenhurst, Hants.
MRS. VENIE MAGGS, Oakwell Hall, Birstall, Nr. Leeds.
CHAS. HARRIS, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, E.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

F. HOWE, 54 Thomas Street, Wellingborough, Northants.
REV. E. P. GORRINGE, Manston Rectory, Stowminter Newton, Dorset.
MRS. B. W. HODGKIN, Sedbergh House, Kew Green, Surrey.

Proposed for Election as Members.

MRS. ALICE S. MAHON, Brook House, Camberley, Surrey.
By Tinniswood Miller, F.Z.S.

P. J. SPENCER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), 147, Mellison Road, Tooting, London, S.W. *By J. Frostick.*

DR. GILBERT B. THWAITES, 34, Beaconsfield Road, Rrighton.
By the Hon. Editor.

MRS. H. BROWN, Selon Lodge, Kenleaze, Bristol. *By the Hon. Editor.*

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny ;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED : "Bird Notes" Vol. v. Coloured plates from Vols. vi. and vii.. LYTHGOE, 76 Shrewsbury Street, Manchester.

WANTED : One Male Golden Agusi *(Dasyprocta aguti)*.
DR. PHILIP GOSSE, Beaulieu, Hants.

CARNATIONS : MR. HAYWARD MATHIAS, Medstead, Hants., offers Malmaisons and American Trees from his large collection. Fine healthy plants guaranteed, and at quite reasonable prices. Spring List free,

LEADBEATER COCKATOOS, true pair, perfect plumage and condition, used to outdoor aviary or cage. Price 65/-.—MRS. HARTLEY, St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings.

WANTED : Hen Many Colour Parrakeet (or pair), hen Stanley Parrakeet, cock Peached-faced Lovebird, pairs Bourkes, Turquoisines, Elegants, etc.—WRIGHT, Church Hill, Robert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

MRS. CROYSDALE has for sale : White-eared Conure and Roseate Parrakeet, both acclimatised and in perfect condition.—Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which are 1/6.
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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Illustration Fund. We are exceedingly anxious not to have to curtail the number, either of the coloured or uncoloured plates, and judging from the correspondence received, the latter are a much appreciated feature of our magazine. At the same time, we must remind members, that these features can only be retained in their present number by a liberal response to the appeal on behalf of the Illustration Fund, that is. so long as our membership is below 400. This fully explains the extent of our need, and we trust that those who have so far overlooked this matter will see their way to contribute. The smallest donation will be thankfully acknowledged by our esteemed Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. H. Willford).

Medals. Members are informed that owing to the generosity of one of the officers of the club, twelve medals have been presented for the following objects: (1) For the breeding of any species of bird for the first time in the British Isles (this applies equally to Foreign or British species) (2) For the breeding of hybrids for the first time in the British Isles. In all instances, a detailed account of the occurrence must accompany the claim for the medal. We hope to receive many claims for these medals during the present season.

Back Volumes of "Bird Notes." With the exception of Vols. I and II, which are out of print, we can supply Vols. III to VIII either in sets or any odd volume that may be required. We would remind members that all the above volumes are excellent value at the published prices (see advert.) and are replete with interest and information on all phases of bird keeping. We would also remind members that the sale of back volumes materially helps the club's funds, while our membership is growing.

Correspondence. We hope that a larger use will be made of this section of the magazine during the present volume, and that all items of interest will be recorded through this source, when not sufficiently lengthy to form an article. We also remind members that this section is open for the discussion of any topic of avicultural interest.

Members' Gatherings at the Zoo. Though these have not been largely attended, they have been very interesting and much appreciated by those able to be present. We propose holding another such gathering on Saturday June 18th, and invite suggestons as to a whole day July gathering, on any week-day members may consider most convenient.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec*

New Members Elected.

MRS. ALICE S. MAHON, Brook House, Camberley, Surrey.

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DR. GILBERT B. THWAITES, 34, Beaconsfield Road, Rrighton.

MRS. H. BROWN, Selon Lodge, Kenleaze, Bristol.

Proposed for Election as Members.

E.F.M. Elms, Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey.

J. Pelham Sutton, Melbourne Lodge, Carlton Road, Putney, London, S.W.

W. Smith, 12 Claremont, Redruth. *By Tinniswood Miller, F.Z.S.*

Mrs. L. Williams, Oaklands, Sunbridge Avenue, Bromly, Kent, *By H. W. Mathias, seconded By W. T. Page.*

William Baxby, Coal Aston, Dronfield, Sheffield. *By H. Willford.*

Miss L. Peacock, Springmead, Sidcup, Kent. *By the Hon. Editor.*

Thos. G. Nicalson, Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. *By J. H. Henstock.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Millsum, O., Everberg par Cortenberg, Bravant, Belgium.

Cronkshaw, J., 193, Manchester Street, Accrington.

Mrs. B. W. Hodgkin, Sedburgh House, Kew Green, Surrey.

Hon. Mrs. Algeron Bourke, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, and 75 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, W.

Russell, Humphrys, Bryn Court, Warlingham, Surrey.

Illustration Fund.

	£	s.	d
J. F. Dewar	**0**	**5**	**0**
Mrs. D. L. Hubbard	**0**	**5**	**0**
Wesley T. Page (to cover artist's fees on special drawings) ...	**2**	**2**	**0**
Capt. J. Sherard Rieve	**0**	**10**	**0**

The Bird Market.

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Apply The PUBLISHER.

WANTED : Cock Bearded Tit ; hen, Cordon Bleu, and hen common Firefinch ; all guaranteed thoroughly acclimatised. W. R. TEMPLE, Ormonde, Datchet.

WANTED : Photographic prints of Foreign Doves, please state price desired. Miss R. Alderson, Park House, Worksop.

FOR SALE : Pair Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons, 30s. ; Hen Bronze-wing Pigeon, 7s. 6d. ; 2 Cock Diamond Doves, 5s. each ; 2 Cock Peaceful Doves, 4s. each ; 2 Senegal Doves, 7s. 6d.
Lewis Corstorphine, Ryde, I. of W.

PERFECT Gold-fronted Gold-sucker, very tame, full song, 40s., or exchange.

WANTED : Cock Blue-breasted Waxbill, and Hens, Parrot Finch and Black-headed (yellow) Siskin. Dr. Amsler, Eton.

FOR SALE : Owing to near change of address I must dispose of many of my established pairs. Silvery-crowned Friar Birds (very rare), Black-headed Sibias, Grey-winged Ouzels, Shamas, Red-naped Lorikeets, Black-headed, Rufous-headed, and other Buntings. Odd males of Plumbeous Redstart (very rare), Sombre-Honey-sucker (very rare), Brazilian Hangnest, and others. List and prices on application. W. T. Page, 6 Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED : Golden Pheasant Eggs for sitting, or Adult Hen. Mrs. Croysdale, Sunbury on Thames.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

VERSICOLOR TEALS, £3 pair ; Rare Foreign and British birds, Softbills, Ornamental Water and Park-fowl. Bird skins and eggs.
Pierre, 37 Beresford Street, Camberwell, London.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLIES (Mouse-birds), £4 pair. Red Macaw (yellow wings), £5. Wanted pair Rose-breasted Guiracas and Cock Brazilian Gros-beak.
Pierre, 37 Beresford Street, Camberwell, London.

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Month's Arrivals.

Princess of Wales' Parrakeet *(Polytelis alexandræ)*. Specimens of this exquisite and rare species, which for chaste soft colouring stands unrivalled among the Parrot tribe, have been offered recently by Mr. Jamrach and also by Mr. Hamlyn.

Quite a series of continental species are being offered by Pierre, of Camberwell (see Bird Market), such as :—Northern Nightingales, Black Redstarts, Woodchats, Shrikes, etc., Grasshopper, Savi's, Icterine, Reed, and Orphean Warblers. Bearded, Crested, and Long-tailed Tits. Green, Lesser, and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Golden Orioles, Bee-eaters, White-spotted Blue-throats, Hoopoes, Blue Rollers, Wrynecks, etc.

Messrs. Willson's, De Von, Ltd., and others are offering Painted, Gouldian, and other Grassfinches, etc., etc., W.T.P.

Post-Mortem Examinations.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: Members are urged, now that the breeding season is upon us, to chronicle the doings of their birds—this is a topic that never grows stale, and failures as well as successes should be recorded, with details of treatment and the birds demeanour generally while we hope great success will attend the efforts of our members' birds to reproduce their kind, some failures come the way of all, and from these frequently the most practical lessons are learned. Also wherever the demeanour of a species differs from published records, notes of such should be sent in for publication in the Club journal.

Breeding Medals.—These are awarded as under :

For breeding a species for the first time in the British Isles.

For breeding Hybrids between two distinct species for the first time in the British Isles.

Our Aviaries and Birdrooms. -There are still many of which no account has appeared in the magazine. The general verdict is that we cannot have too many of these, and we strongly urge those members who have not yet done so, to send in an account of their aviaries and birds, accompanied if possible by photos and plans.

Change of Hon. Editor's Address.—Attention of members is especially directed to the notice attached to cover, and that all communications for the Hon. Editor must now be addressed as under :—

W. T. Page, "Glenfield," Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

Notice: All members not receiving their copies of "Bird Notes" by the 20th of each month should AT ONCE write the publisher complaining of the omission.

Members Gathering at Zoo: The gathering announced for June 18th in last issue will have taken place before this issue is published as owing to the coloured plate not being ready it will be a few day's late. There will be another gathering on Wednesday, July 20th. Rendezvous—Small Bird House at 11 a.m. It is suggested that an issue of "Bird Notes" be carried in the hand as a means of recognition.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

W. Goodfellow, "Mont Fluri" Southbourne Grove, Bournemouth.
W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.
E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., 45 Sussex Square, Brighton.
Paul Vollmar, 8 George Street, Minories, London, E.C.

New Members Elected.

E.F.M. Elms, Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey.
J. Pelham Sutton, Melbourne Lodge, Carlton Road, Putney, London, S.W.
W. Smith, 12 Clarmont, Redruth
Mrs. L. Williams, Oaklands, Sunbridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent.
William Baxby, Coal Aston, Dronfield, Sheffield.
Miss L. Peacock, Springmead, Sidcup, Kent.
Thos. Nicalson, Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. Stanley Flower, Longfield, Tring, Herts.
B. Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.
Miss C. F. Chawner, Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants.

By the Hon. Editor.

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
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Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne.

FOR SALE : *The Bird World*, 12 parts, all issued, as new, 3/6 lot.

Apply The PUBLISHER.

"BIRD NOTES." Vols. I and II. Bound, in good and clean condition. Vol. I is out of print, Vol. II nearly so. Offers invited.

H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, I. of W.

PAIR BLACK-HEADED PARRAKEETS 30/-, pair Golden-fronted Conures 21/-, pair Green Cardinals 40/-, pair White Javas (pure white) 10/- 1 ditto (believed cock) 5/-, pair Long-tailed Grassfinches 16/-, 1 Black-headed Gouldian hen, 1 red cock nested, Yellow and Green Budgerigars, Canary, 1 cock Zebra 2/6, 1 hen Grassfinch 8/-, cock Pileated Finch 10/-, 2 Siberian Goldfinches 7/6 each, cock Chinese Quails 8/-, 1 Long-tailed tame glossy Starling 30/-, cock Virginian Nightingale (taken 1st and Special) 33/-. All fit to show and acclimatised. Mrs. Hodgkin, Sedbergh House, Kew Green.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOREIGN CAGE BIRDS : A collection of 109 unrivalled coloured plates, 15¾ x 77⅜ inches, depicting a large number of birds in various plumages. 65/-. A same collection British Cage Birds 65/-. Specimen on 1/- deposit. P.O. Pierre, 37, Beresford street, Camberwell London.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Half-tone Plates: We have exceptional opportunities at the present time for securing most interesting photographs of bird-life for reproduction, and we trust members will remember the Illustration Fund so that we may reproduce as many of these as possible.

The Magazine: The Hon. Editor asks the indulgence of members, both as regard the last and present issues, as owing to his removal from London, both issues have been produced under unexceptional difficulties.

Nesting Notes: The Hon. Editor trusts that members will send in records of these, also detailed accounts where possible of the life history of breeding-pairs while in their aviaries, with as full accounts as possible of the rearing of the young. Descriptions of new acquisitions are of general interest and we trust such will be sent in.

Month's Arrivals: The Hon. Editor solicits short accounts of the birds seen during visits to dealers' establishments, and regrets that owing to the aforementioned cause, that they are practically non-existent in this issue.

Our Membership: There is still need for a strenuous effort in this direction, and we once more urge each member to do what they can that our membership may be greatly increased. The Hon. Business Secretary will be pleased either to send out specimen copies to those likely to become members, or members can get copies for this purpose on application to him.

Members' Meetings at the Zoo: Another of these has been arranged for Wednesday, 20th inst., rendezvous Small Bird House, 11 a.m. It is suggested that a copy of " Bird Notes " be carried as a means of recognition.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec*

Proposed for Election as Members.

Master R. de Quincy Quincy, Inglewood, Chiselhurst, Kent.
By H. W. Mathias, recommended by Mrs. Howard Williams.

Countess C. V. Hahn, 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, Surrey.
By B. Hollins.

Dr. C. Sterckmans, 28, Rue de la Station, Louvain, Belgium.
By R. Pauwels.

New Members Elected.

Mrs. Stanley Flower, Longfield, Tring, Herts.
B. Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.
Miss C. F. Chawner, Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. Howard Williams, Oatlands, Sundridge, Bromley, Kent.
C. S. R. Perring, 1, Walpole Road, Twickenham.

The Bird Market.

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"BIRD NOTES," Vols. I and II. Bound, in good and clean condition. Vol. I is out of print, Vol. II nearly so. Offers invited.
H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, I. of W.

FOR SALE—RARE PARRAKEETS, etc.—Mr. Hubert D. Astley must part with surplus stock, all in splendid condition, parrakeets wintered in out-door aviaries. The following in pairs—only one of each species Crimson-wings, female one drooping wing, £5. Many-colours £2 10s. Stanley's £4. Single males: Rock Pebbler £2. Two "Splendid" Rosellas (rare) £4. Pennant 50/-. Port Lincoln 50/-. Breeding pair Magpie Tanagers, have hatched young but not reared, £6 (very rare). Three fine 1910 Grey-winged Ouzels (one male and two females) 60/-. Tame cock Red-legged Cuban Thrush (*Mimocichla rubripes*) 50/-. Cuban Blue Mocking Thrush (*M. cærulescens)* £2. No dealers, or exchange.—Benham-Valence, Newbury.

WANTED: Hen Hooded Siskin. Pairs: Quail, Violet-Eared, Black-faced, Dufresne's, Ruddy, and any rare Finches. Also Bourke Parrakeets.—Pickles, Stoneyhurst, Morecombe.

HOME WANTED for cock Avadavat, healthy and thoroughly acclimatised, but slightly pecked on neck by Lavender Finch with whom it was kept and did not agree.—Miss Greevin, 29, Queensborough Terrace, London, W.

WANTED: Pair Blue-winged Lovebirds, Hen Rosy Pastor, Pair Common Cardinals, Pair Rosellas.—Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

FOR SALE: Perfect pairs Black-headed Sibias £5, Silvery-crowned Friar Birds (very rare) £10, Peaceful Doves 15/-, Moustache Parrakeets, perfect plumage, cocks, 20/- each, Rosellas, hens, 20/- each. Budgerigars, pairs 6/-, unsexed young 1/6 each.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Pair of Diamond Doves.—Payne, 12, Westgate Buildings, Bath.

INSECTILE MIXTURE: In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply members with soft-food mixture at 1/6 per lb. carriage forwards, from my own supply.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Unpaid Subscriptions: There are still a few of these unpaid, and I trust those who still have overlooked them, will accept this as a reminder and send a remittance at once to our esteemed Hon. Treasurer, and thus save both his time and the club's funds in making further applications for same. We may add that the prompt payment of subscriptions is necessary for the facile working of the club, as illustrations etc. have to be prepared in advance. A little thought in this respect will save the Honorary Officials much needless correspondence and inconvenience.

Members' Gatherings at the Zoo: The last of these for this year will take place on Saturday, September 17th. Rendezvous: Small Birds' House, at 2-30 p.m. A copy of "B.N." carried in the hand forms a ready means of recognition.

The Show Season: Members attention is specially directed to the rules etc. relating to same at end of inset.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec.*

Month's Arrivals.

There has been quite an influx of Tanagers on the market during the past month—I received the following: "I have a consignment of 100 Tanagers—Magpies, All Green, Festive, Blue, Olive—about 20 varieties—would you like to come and see them? J. D. Hamlyn." Unfortunately I was unable to get there for about a week and the rarer species were then sold. but there was still a fair number of Blues, Tricolour, Superb, Magpie, Green, etc.

That well-known dealer, A. E. Jamrach, has received a consignment of Flamingoes, Rufous Tinamous, Bell Birds, Californian Quail, Concave-casqued Hornbills, Hooded Cranes, Rheas, Haast's Apteryx, White Peafowl and Griffin Vultures.

The various dealers have been offering—some of the species are still on sale—the following numerous species of Tanagers:—Festive, Blue, Tricolour, Scarlet, Rufous-throated, Violet, Copper-headed, All Green, Necklace, Golden-shouldered, Superb, Petri's, etc. Various species of Sugar Birds have also been on offer, together with many uncommon species of Troupials, Buntings, Parrakeets, etc. W.T.P.

Indigos and Nonpareils : Our esteemed member, A. Sutcliffe, informs me that a consignment of thirty Indigos and Nonpareils have just come to hand. Just on going to press a second consignment of 300 bird has come to hand, principally Spermophilœ, Jacarini Finches, Cowbirds, and various Euphonias—fuller details will be given in next issue. W.T.P.

New Members Elected.

Master R. de Quincy Quincy, Inglewood, Chiselhurst, Kent.
Countess C. V. Hahn, 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, Surrey.
Dr. C. Sterckmans, 28, Rue de la Station, Louvain, Belgium.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss L. Sturton Johnson, Orotava House, Ore, Nr. Hastings.
By Mrs. Hartley.
S. L. Southcombe, Heskin, Birch Grove, Taunton.
By the Hon. Business Secretary.
S. Watson, 37. Tithebarn Street, Preston.
Mrs. G. D. Lee, Hartwell House, Aylesbury.
By the Hon. Editor.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

N. S. O'Reilly, 2, West Terrace Mansions, Folkestone.

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H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, I. of W.

FOR CHEAP CHOICE CARNATIONS
(Borders, Americans, Malmaisons).
Apply to HAYWARD MATHIAS, Medstead, Hants.
For his descriptive CATALOGUE.

WANTED: Acclimatized Hen Cordon Bleu. H. Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.

WANTED: 2 Hen Grenadier Weavers, 2 Hen Napoleon Weavers, Hen Cutthroat, also Hen Zebra Dove in exchange for cock. Captain Reeve, Leadenham, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: 2 Hen Brush-Bronze-wing Pigeons—imported birds—12/6 each. Lewis, Corstorphine, Ryde, I. of W.

PRIVATE IMPORTATION: Pairs, Jacarini Finches—12/6, Slaty Finches—10/-. Black-headed Lined Finches, 15/-, Brown Finches (undefined)—6/-, Silky Cowbirds—7/6. R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Lincs.

WANTED: Hen Aurora Finch. J. C. W. Meadows, 17, Cardiff Road, Luton.

VOL. II.—*Bird Notes*, unbound but complete and clean—15/-. Rare Black-throated Thrush—25/-., Green Guiana Lovebird—20/., both cocks, acclimatised and healthy. Miss Peddie Waddell, Balquhatstone, Slamannan, Stirlingshire.

INSECTILE MIXTURE: In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply members with soft-food mixture at 1/6 per lb. carriage forward, from my own supply.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

GREY-WINGED OUZEL, 1909, aviary bred cock, good songster, 25/-—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

CAYMAN ISLAND PARROT, privately imported six months ago, splendid condition, just over moult.—E. W. Harper, 6, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

PAIRS, Grey Waxbill 2/-; Orange-cheeks 2/-; Orange-breasts 4/6; 2 Hen Cordons 3/- each; 6 Cock Cutthroats for 4/6; Cock Crimson Finch 30/-; all thoroughly hardy and in perfect condition, out of doors. Also Cuban Trogon, Hen Grand Eclectus, Chattering Lory, acclimatised and hardy.—Hadley, Draper, Burton-on-Trent.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED: Pair Red-headed Gouldians for breeding, from out-door aviary. Moderate Price. Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

The Coming Show Season.

At a meeting held at the last Crystal Palace Show the wish was expressed by several exhibiting members that the Cups should be given for points; so it was agreed to leave it to the Show Committee to alter the rules, which now read as under. The Medals will still be given for the Best Bird.

The Committee hope that members will be more generous in their sup- to shows having our patronage this season, as one show has already returned from six to three classes through lack of support.

Regulations as to Club Medals and Cup.

Made by the Show Committee of the Council.

1.—All Medals shall be given for Best Bird.

2.—Members exhibiting at Shows where Club Medals are given, *must* place the initials "F.B.C." after each entry on the entry form, and request the Secretary to insert the same in the Show Catalogue.

3.—No member shall win more than two Medals in one season—one silver and one bronze—or more than one Medal at the same Show.

4.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, unless the Classification and the name of the Judge be first submitted to and approved by the Committee. Preference shall be given to Shows at which the Club's Classification is adopted and one of the Club's Judges appointed.

5.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, where less than three Classes for Foreign Birds are provided, and no Silver Medal where less than six Classes. The Show Committee reserve the right of waiving this number at their discretion.

6.—Medals given at OPEN SHOWS only. Birds in Members' Classes shall not compete.

7.—The London Silver Cup will be offered for competition at any Show, held in the London Postal District having our patronage where ten or more classes are given.

(*a*) The Provincial Silver Cup will be offered for Competition at any Provincial Show having our patronage where six or more classes are given.

8.—The Cups are to be won three times (not necessarily in succession), before becoming the property of the winner, and to be given for most points gained by a member throughout the season at Shows where the Cups are offered for competition.

9.—Members competing for the Cup must nominate not more than three birds, by writing the word "Cup" after each competing bird. If members nominate more than three birds, they will be disqualified for that Show, and only birds in the money will count for points.

10.—No Medal or Cup shall be awarded at any Show unless at least three members compete, and points for the Cup will not be counted, if more than one class is cancelled.

11.—Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 6 points, 2nd, 5 points, and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place the member taking the most prize money to win the special.

12.—Any point arising that is not provided for in the above, will be dealt with by the Show Committee.

S. M. TOWNSEND.

SEPTEMBER, 1910.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Nesting Notes and Breeding Records: We urge upon all members to send in notes of their birds during the past season, even mere attempts and partial successes, as well as complete success in the rearing of young, are all alike full of instruction and interest. Moreover as there are still many comparatively common or well known species that have not yet been bred in this country, members who do not keep lists of such records, may find themselves entitled to a *medal* for breeding a *species* or *hybrid* for the first time in Great Britain.

Aviaries and Birds: These still continue one of the most interesting features of our club Journal, and from correspondence received there is still a call for more. Will those who have not yet contributed notes on their aviaries and birds, kindly do so?

Meetings at the Zoo: The last of these for the current year will take place on Saturday, September 17th. Rendezvous: Small Birds' House at 2-30 p.m. A copy of "B.N." carried in the hand forms a ready means of recognition.

Accounts of Uncommon Species: Our esteemed member, Mr. W. H. Pickles has written stating that he is sure many members would like the descriptions of rare or uncommon species to be given in our Journal from time to time, so that when such reach the market they may be recognised. We shall be only too pleased to give effect thereto, and it appears to us that the most practical means of doing so, would be for members to send in the names of such species as they would like described, and then as soon as practical the description would appear.

WESLEY T. PAGE, Hon. Editor.
H. WILLFORD, Hon. Bus. Sec.

Editorial.

(See page 268 in body of Magazine).

Our Responsibility: We would again draw our members' attention to the conditions of importation and also the housing of birds in many dealers' shops, some of which are mere *hotbeds of infection*). We cannot adequately deal with the subject in this issue, as only just on going to press has the matter been brought to our notice again, and we think much good could be done by discussing the matter in our pages—a *nome de plume* could be used by any who preferred to remain *incognita*—and we hope many will give their views and experiences.

One thing is quite clear, the responsibility is ours, if there were no buyers *there certainly would be no sellers*, and as a body we certainly ought to see that needless suffering is not inflicted upon the birds with our cognizance.

The issue is very simple, for the matter is in our own hands, and under our control, so far as conditions in this country are concerned—we have simply to have no transactions with any dealer who does not keep his birds under humane conditions, or properly pack them for transit, or who habitually sends out such, that the majority die shortly after receipt.

To keep a large number of birds crowded together and leave them to "wallow in their own filth" no matter how they be fed or watered, *is simply brutal*, and our duty is quite clear, viz., to report at once all such cases to the R.S.P.C.A.

Month's Arrivals.

Private Importation:—On August 8th Mr. A Sutcliffe and I received from the West Indies a rather large consignment of birds. They, however, were not what we expected. It is very annoying to get a quantity and find they are practically all duplicates of what you already possess: there were 192 Finches, amongst them being 6 Fire Red Finches, 21 Guttural Finches, 33 Jacarini Finches 8 Tropical Seed Finches, 32 Blackheaded Lined Finches, 1 Thick-billed Seed Finch, 2 Buntings in immature plumage, still to be identified, the remainder being Grey Finches *(Spermophila grisea)* a very fine songster, one yellow Hangnest, one orange ditto, one Mocking Bird, 4 Blue and 2 Palm Tanagers, 23 Cowbirds, and 57 Euphonias, *violacea minuta, trinitatis*; and on August 26th two pairs of Nonpareil Buntings, 25 Indigo Buntings, and one hen Parva Finch *(Spermophila parva)*. The expenses of importation are very heavy, and the mortality in the hands of the ship's butcher is a factor to be reckoned with. The minimum charge is 20s. per cage, and a like sum for the butcher. When you specially stipulate that they must not be crowded, you must allow 1s. 6d. per head of living arrivals for transit purposes, and to be able to send duplicates to a dealer you should purchase at 2s. 6d. per pair. The majority of the birds, however, cannot be purchased for double this figure, so that this consignment has been very unsatisfactory and disappointing.

R. S.

At the Zoo: Among other interesting arrivals we may mention three specimens presented by our esteemed member Dr. E. Hopkinson, viz.: Ox Bird *(Textor alector)*, Variegated Turaco *(Schizoris africana)*, and a Double-spurred Francolin *(Francolins bicalcaratus)*. The above are located in the western aviary, and some notes concerning the Variegated Turaco will be found in this issue under "Birds of Gambia" and of the Ox Bird in the same series (Vol. viii, p. 39).

Ross's Plaintain-eater *(Musophaga rossæ)*: A fine pair of this rare species from Uganda—the first to reach this country alive—have been presented to the Zoo, by Mr. L. M. Seth-Smith, and are now located in one of the flights of the Small Birds' House; they are well worth a visit, being not only very rare, but an exceeding beautiful and brilliantly clad species.

W.T.P.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S., 36 St. George's Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.
H. K. Picard, 298 West End Lane, London, N.W.
Mrs. Alice, S. Mahon, Brookhill, Claremorris, Ireland.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations to the Illustration Fund :—

	s.	d.
Miss C. Haddon	7	6
W. H. Pickles	5	0

New Members Elected.

Miss L. Sturton Johnson, Orotava House, Ore, Nr. Hastings.
S. L. Southcombe, Heskin, Birch Grove, Taunton.
S. Watson, 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston.
Mrs. E. D. Lee, Hartwell House, Aylesbury.

NOTE —Mrs. E. D. Lee was proposed by the Hon Lady Harvy, and not by the Hon. Editor, as printed.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss Nellie Hadden, F.Z.S., 13 Stanford Road, Kensington, London, W.
By Mrs. Stanley Flower.
L. G. Chiozza Money, Tyhurst, Chaldon, Surrey.
By R. Suggitt.
Sydney Williams, F.Z.S., Holland Lodge, Edmonton.
By H. Goodchild
K. A. Appleby, Post Office of India, Arrisitar, Punjab, India.
By Capt. Perrean, F.Z.S.

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PRIVATE IMPORTATION : Pairs, Jacarini Finches—12/6, Grey Finches—*(Spermophila grisea)*, 9s. Black-headed Lined Finches, 15/-. Silky Cowbirds—7/6. Guttural Finches, 15/-. Tropical Seed Finches, 15/-. Approval. R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Lincs.

FOR SALE : Cock and Hen Shama, 2 Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls *(Chlor opsis aurifrons)*, 1 true pair Red-whiskered Bulbuls (*Otocompsa fuscicaudata*), 2 young of same, 1 true pair White-eared Bulbuls *Molpastes leucotis*, 2 young of same, 1 true pair Pekin Robins, 2 Pekin Robins (all imported by owner). Healthy and very tame. Giving up aviary. No dealers. Mahon, Brookhill, Claremorris, Ireland.

PAIR English Bred Californian Quail, 15/-, or exchange. Wm. Shore-Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR CHEAP CHOICE CARNATIONS
(Borders, Americans, Malmaisons).
Apply to HAYWARD MATHIAS, Medstead, Hants.
For his descriptive CATALOGUE.

INSECTILE MIXTURE : In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply members with soft-food mixture at 1/6 per lb. carriage forward, from my own supply.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

GREY-WINGED OUZEL, 1909, aviary bred cock, good songster, 25/-—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED: Yellow Cock Budgerigar. Exchange Yellow Hen. Lady Malden, Soulbury, Leighton Buzzard.

FOR SALE: Hen Bronze-wing Pigeon 12/6, four Triangular-spotted Pigeons 10/- each. Lewis, Corstorphine, Ryde, I. of W.

List of Coloured Plates

(By request), which have been published in *Bird Notes*. 1s. each, with the exception of a "Beautiful Aviary," which is 1s. 6d.

Tricolour Tanager
Black-backed ,,
Gold and Green ,,
Superb ,,
Blue and Maroon ,,
Black-cheeked ,,
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit Pigeon
Golden-crowned Conure
Hawk-headed Caique
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugar Bird
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Painted Finch
Sepoy Finch
Gouldian Finch
Waxwing
Bronze Cuckoo
Group of Spermophilæ
Mexican or Green Jay
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogon
Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting
Flame-breasted Flower Pecker
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Senegal Parrot
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Uvæan Parrot
Black-winged Lory
Stella's Lory
A Beautiful Aviary (1/6)
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper

THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following shows. Other shows receiving same will be announced later.

The Show Committee wish to point out to members that by exhibiting at shows advertised in the Magazine, they are helping the Club, as all advertisements are paid for.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is impossible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the judge otherwise.

Norwich.—October 6th, and 7th: Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal, judge Mr. J. Robson. Schedules from Mr. R. Roll, 58, York Street, Norwich.

Rochdale.—October 21st, and 22nd: Classification for three classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal, judge Mr. C A. House. Schedules from Mr. M. Blincoe, 160, Drake Street. Rochdale.

3 Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Important :— From many quarters there has come the expression of a desire for a Club Dinner either at the Horticultural Hall on the occasion of the L.C.B.A. show November 25th to 28th, or at the Crystal Palace L.P.O.S. Show in February next, *or both*. Will members kindly communicate to us their views. Time is very short for the Horticultural Hall, so in this case we must ask all who could attend a club dinner there to communicate with the Hon. Editor at once, stating views as to which day, time, etc. If there is a sufficient response, arrangements will be made and details announced in November issue of the Club Journal.

Club Breeding Medals : – These will be distributed early in November

BREEDING RECORDS : — Many interesting events go unrecorded, or only get heard of by chance. We wish to urge that *Bird Notes* is a CLUB JOURNAL, and that a large part of its space should be given up to accounts of and doings in members' aviaries –there are many members from whom we never hear. May we ask all to pause and think, what interesting volumes would be produced if each member sent an annual record of their aviary or birdroom. Those possessing numerous aviaries and large collections of birds would of course send as hitherto and as often as their convenience permitted. We desire, however, to emphasize the fact, *that the purpose of our interesting and progressive Club Journal will never be fully filled*, if members take up the position that only the breeding of rare, uncommon, or "first-timers in-this-country" are worth a place in our Journal. We repeat that the purpose of our existence is mutual help, and to place on record the results of aviculture in our aviaries, etc.—these are of scientific interest. This can only be achieved as indicated above—by annual records which cover the common place (so called), rare and first-time records in our aviaries and birdrooms. Such, with the able and continued series, such as "Birds of Gambia," and others, which regularly appear will consummate our aim that *Bird Notes* is and will continue a LIVE JOURNAL.

We *press* for the hearty co-operation of all to this end.

Hon. Editor, WESLEY T. PAGE.
Hon. Bus. Sec. HENRY WILLFORD.

Month's Arrivals.

Some uncommon birds have been on offer during the month, and in many instances are still obtainable. The well-known dealer Jamrach has offered me quite recently Scarlet Ibis (in colour), Snowy Egret, White Peafowl, Montezuma Quails, Californian Crested Quails, Cariama, White-faced Whistling Ducks, Black-headed Geese, Hybrid Snow Geese, Nutcrakers, Alpine Choughs, Blue-bearded Jay, Mexican and Peruvian Jays, Blue Mountain and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Adelaide and Tovi Parrakeets, St. Thomas's and Brown-throated Conures, Red and Yellow Macaws, Cape Colies, Rufous and spotted Tinamous. W.T.P.

Our esteemed Hon. Business Secretary (Mr. Willford) has received several consignments of Tanagers, among which are the following: Archbishop, Blue, Scarlet, Black, Superb, Magpie, Olive, and Violet—all in pairs; also Green-billed Toucans, Bare-throated Bell Birds, Violet-eared Waxbills, Cuban Finches, Yellow-headed Reed Birds, Jacarini and Black-headed Lined Finches, etc. W.T.P.

I have been unable to make a round of the dealers' shops, but from a glance through adverts. and circulars sent, the usual Waxbills, Ornamental Finches, Grassfinches, etc., are all on sale at the principle dearlers' establishments, viz., De Von, Willsons, Hamlyn, B. Hollins, and others. W.T.P.

Private Importation: In my notes in last issue I ommited to include a creeper *(Cerlhiola luteola)* which, I believe to be new to British aviculture. It is very similar to the Black and Yellow Creeper *(C. flaveola)* of which a coloured plate appeared in June issue of current volume. From the descriptions of the two species in the *B.M. Catalogue*, it would appear that *luteola* only differs in having less white on the wings and outer tail feathers the measurements vary, but this may be owing to stretched skins, however, I qoute them: *luteola* 4.3 inches, wing 2.3, tail 1.5 *flaveola* 4 inches, wing 2.3, tail 4 inches. R.S.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations to Illustration Fund:

Mrs. K. Leslie Miller	£2 0 0

Proposed for Election as Members.

R. A. Newley, 24 Stockwell Green, London, S. W.,
By J. Frostick.

Jeffrey Walsh, Pheasant Aviaries, Blackburn.
By J. M. Walsh.

Mrs. Stuart-Wortley, Dock House, Beaulieu, Hants.
By Dr. P. Gosse.

New Members Elected.

Miss Nellie Hadden, F.Z.S., 13 Stanford Road, Kensington, London, W.
L. G. Chiozza Money, Tyhurst, Chaldon, Surrey.
Sydney Williams, F.Z.S., Holland Lodge, Edmonton.
K. A. Appleby, Post Office of India, Arrisitar, Punjab, India.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Miss Nellie Hadden, Hotel des Bains, Helwan, Egypt.

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which are 1/6.
Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne.

FOR SALE: *The Bird World*, 12 parts, all issued, as new, 3/6 lot.
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AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: 3 aviary-bred (1910) RED-CRESTED CARDINALS, 10/6 each, or nearest offer; also pair of hybrid Barbary x Turtle Doves, 5/- pair. B. Hamilton Scott, Hamilton, Ipswich

FOR CHEAP CHOICE CARNATIONS
(Borders, Americans, Malmaisons).
Apply to HAYWARD MATHIAS, Medstead, Hants.
For his descriptive CATALOGUE.

FOR SALE: Tanagers and Sugar Birds, not new arrivals, will live. Blue 45/-; Archbishop 50/-; Scarlet 40/-; Tricolour 45/-; Festive 45/-; Violet 18/-; Black 25/-; Magpie 90/-; Olive 45/-. all per pair. Green-billed Toucans 70/-; Blue-throated Bell Birds 150/-; Cuban Finches 60/-; also Black-Lined and Jacarini Finches 16/- per pair. Copper-headed Tanagers 60/- each, also many others and Sugar Birds. Apply —H. Willford, Uplands View, Havenstreet, Ryde, I. of W.

TRUE PAIRS Indigo Buntings 25/-; Partridge Doves 20/- privately imported, healthy, approval. R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

FOR SALE: Pair Zebra Doves 5/-; pair Senegal Doves 5/-; also odd cock bird of each, 2/6. Out-door aviary. Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

HEN BLUE BONNET, Faultless condition, in my possession twelve months. Mrs. Hartley, St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings.

MR. MATHIAS, Stubbington, Hants. has Black Cheeked Love Birds, price 12/6 each; Diamond Doves 7/6 each. Strong healthy birds, bred in his outdoor Aviaries this year.

THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving same will be announced in due course.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

Manchester, October 28th, and 29th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Silver Cup for competition. Judge Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. H. Boothman, 8 Kettering Road, Levenshulme, Manchester.

Cheltenham, November 2nd and 3rd. Classification for three classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge Mr. J. Robson. Schedules from Messrs. Treasure & Pounsett, Idahoe, Oakland Avenue, Cheltenham.

Nottingham, November 12th to 14th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Silver Cup for competition. Judge Mr. J. F. Dewar. Schedules from Mr. G. E. Wilkinson, 9 Wellington Square, Park Side, Nottingham.

Preston, November 18th and 19th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Silver Cup for competition. Judge Mr. J. H. Roe. Schedules from Mr. R. Taylor, Lime Kiln Inn, Preston.

L.C.B.A., Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, November 25th to 28th. Classification for twelve classes for Foreign Birds. Three Silver Medals and London Silver Cup for competition. Judge Mr. Hubert D. Astley. Schedules from Mr. W. H. Mugford, 64 Stuart Road, Wimbledon Park, S.W.

Birmingham, People's Hall, Hurst Street. November 30th December s1t. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Silver Cup for competion. Judge Mr. Allen Silver. Schedules from Mr. J. H. DeMaillet, 121 Somerville Road, Small Heath, Birmingham. Entries close November 23rd.

Exhibitors will see that the Cups are offered for competition at several of the Shows advertised this month, they will see by the rules in August number of the Magazine that they are being given for points, won by any three nominated birds at each Show this season. Members must ask the secretary of the Shows to see that the word "Cup" is printed in the catalogue after the birds chosen to compete. Several Members have won the Cup once for last year.

The Show Committee wish to call the attention of members to the very liberal classification which the L.C.B.A. are again giving this year, and to the fact the Show is held in an ideal Hall for the purpose, and they hope the members will show their appreciation by an equally liberal support.

S. M. TOWNSEND.
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3 Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Our Illustrations: The Hon. Editor desires to express his thanks to those members who have supported us with photos, and it is a matter for congratulation that, thanks to these members, we have been able to publish so fine a series. Those in this issue being especially fine and we hope to be able to continue them.

The Magazine: The present issue, is the last but one, of the first Vol. of our new series: the Editor and Committe would greatly esteem members' suggestions as to any special features or improvoments for the next volume.

Our Membership: We once more bring this matter before your notice. While our progress in steady and continuous, it is not what it ought to be, there can be no better time than the present to seek to secure new members, with a new volume commencing in the near future. May we urge that a united and strenuous effort be made *by all* to promptly secure at least 100 new members it not only means the end of financial struggle, but also greater variety in the contents of our Club Journal.

Show Notices: Special attention is directed to Hon. Exhibitional Secretary's notices, etc., under "Show Season."

W. T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sect.*

Editorial.

A Holiday in the West Indies: Either by a slip of the pen or a printer's error, that long suffering quadruped the donkey was given a place he did not deserve, for our esteemed member did not meet with a single individual during his stay there and "Donkey" on last line of page 294 and "moke" on first line of page 295 should read in each instance *mule.*

Nesting Plumage of Stella's Lories: Mr. Brook writes that the compositor has misread him and that "crimson brown back" on line 9 of his note on page 303 should read *crimson lower back*; also that "brown back" on line 18 of same should read *lower back*; also that "next month" on line 16 should read next *moult.*

Gouldian Finch in Abnormal Plumage. The signature to this note should read E. J. Brook and not E. J. Brown as printed.

Poultry Show: Numerically speaking, the Crystal Palace is famous for its many great shows and by no means the least, and perhaps the most important is the vast International Poultry and Pigeon Show which takes place at the Crystal Palace on November 15th, 16th, and 17th. This show always commands an enormous crowd at the Palace consisting not only of fanciers and exhibitors, but thousands of visitors from all parts of the country. An idea of the enormity of the Show may be imagined by the fact that up to date there are 1046 classes including 506 poultry entries, 500 pigeons and 40 rabbits! The judging will be in progress during the first day of the show. As hitherto, the north and south nave will be divided up into classes and devoted to the entries, while the centre transept will be reserved for trade exhibits.

NOTE: *Many interesting Notes, Correspondence, and Articles unavoidably held over.*

Month's Arrivals.

Private Importation: On October 17th, Mr. A. Sutcliffe and I received from the West Indies one Yellow-bellied Tanager *(Calliste vieilloti)*, one Desmarests *(C desmaresti)*, 4 Purple Sugar Birds, 4 Red-legged Sugar Birds, 5 *Euphonia trinitatis*,* and 16 Violets *(Euphonia lichtensteini)*—31 in all. A gale was raging when the birds were taken to the steamer about four miles from the shore; the birds were knocked about and the case was half full of water when it reached the ship. The ship's butcher says 25 were dead the following morning, and that some beautiful birds died *en route*. Amongst those which started but did not reach us alive were Spotted Emerald, Blue-headed, and Sclater's Tanagers, Black-headed and Blue Sugar Birds, and some Black and Yellow Creepers *(Certhiola luteola)*. R.S.

* Bluish-backed Euphonia. ED.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following donation to the Illustration Fund.

G. P. .... 2s. 6d.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Hon. Mrs. Bourke, 75 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, N.W.

New Members Elected.

R. A. Newley, 24 Stockwell Green, London, S. W.,
Jeffrey Walsh, Pheasant Aviaries, Blackburn.
Mrs. Stuart-Wortley, Dock House, Beaulieu, Hants.

Proposed for Election as Members.

C. H. Robinson, The Grainge, Glaisdale, Grosmont, R.S.O.
By B. Hollins.

Mrs. Turner-Turner, Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Hants.
Dr. P. Gosse.

Kenyon V. Painter, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.
By W. H. Browning.

Miss Joan Caldwell, The Old Manse, Inverkeithing, N. B.
By the Hon. Editor.

Mrs. Travis-Travis, Redmore, Grange, Stourbridge.
By H. Mathias.

The Bird Market.

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IN RESPONSE to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1/6, with larger proportion of animal matter 2/- and 2/6 per lb. W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham, Avenue, Surrey.

PEKINGESE. Mr. H. Mathias, Stubbington, Hants, offers a valuable brood Bitch. First class Pedigree: Goodwood Strain in Sire and Dam. Age 15 months. Colour Cream Fawn, intensely black mask, broad skull, good shape. Had one litter: shortly in season again. Price 15 Guineas. Also a Bitch Puppy, age 5 months, from above litter. Sire Mrs. Kennedy's celebrated WEN-TI. Price 7 Guineas.

WANTED, Pairs of Green and Pope Cardinals, Cockateels and Necklace Doves for out-door aviary. B. Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.

FOR SALE: Pair handsome Bronze-neck Doves. Bred here this summer 25/-, or exchange other varieties. Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

WANTED: Cock Diamond Sparrow, Hen Painted Finch, and Pairs of Grey, St. Helena, Orange-cheeked, and Gold-crested Waxbills must be acclimatised. Mathias, Lucerne, Stubbington, Hants.

OFFERS WANTED for Vols. I. to VI. "Bird Notes," bound, clean and perfect. H. Bliss, Wallingford, Berks.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS, adult 37/6 pair. Hen Mealy Rosella 30/. Pairs Cockatiels, Ringnecks, 10/6, Javas 3/6. Eight pairs Budgerigars 5/6 pair or 40 - the lot. The whole of the above have wintered out in a very exposed aviary and are in fine condition.—D. Croisdale Kirk, Llamshen, Cardiff.

THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following shows. Other shows receiving same will be announced in due course.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is not possible for a secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the judge otherwise.

Birmingham : People's Hall, Hurst Street, November 30th and December 1st. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provisional Silver Cup for competition. Judge, Mr. Allen Silver. Schedules from Mr. J. H. De Maillet, 121 Somerville Road, Small Heath, Birmingham. Entries close November 23rd.

Luton : December 7th. Classification for five classes for fore-ign birds. One bronze medal. Judge, Mr. Allen Silver. Schedules from Mr. E. Cherry, 4 Peel Street, Luton, Beds.

The Show Commitee wish to thank the committee of the L.C.B.A. for the specials they are presenting to our members, at their forthcoming show. They also wish to thank the members who are kindly giving specials at the same srow. The specials are as follows: The L.C.B.A. are presenting three of their Silver Medals for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, most points in the Foreign Section gained by our members. A member presents 5s. or Silver Medal for the best true pairs of birds in Class 166. ditto in Class 167, ditto in Class 168.

Mr. Willford presents 10s. for the best exhibit of Tanager, Bunting, Finch, or Waxbill, by a member who has not won a first at L.C.B.A. Show.

Mr. Pauvvels gives as special one year's subscription and entrance fee to the F.B.C. to a non-member for the best bird in the Foreign Seed Eaters' Section.

Mr. O. Millsum gives the same for the best bird in the Foreign Insectivorous Section.

S. M. TOWNSEND,

Hon. Exhibitional Secretary.

3 Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: The present issue concludes the first volume of our new series, and with the first issue of Volume II. looming before us, we venture to suggest once more several important points:

First and foremost the Club Journal should be a record of members' aviaries, birdrooms, and their occupants. There is a need that there should be comprehensive accounts of Garden Aviaries, Indoor Flights, and Cages, and their occupants.

SHOW NEWS: This will be welcomed —but we would point out that the tabulation of awards should be as brief as possible, as these will have mostly already appeared in the " Fancy " Press. Accounts of rare, unique, and uncommon birds (especially members'), species new to aviculture, should be described and their demeanour noted, etc.—thus not only will results be permanently recorded in the Club Journal, but the accounts made interesting and instructive, and we trust such will be sent in from all localities.

FIELD NOTES: This interesting and valuable feature will be maintained; may we ask those writing of birds at first hand, that is, in their native haunts, to wherever possible, state the natural food of the species they describe.

BRITISH BIRDS: While we have been able to keep this feature going, it has not assumed the proportions it should have done—we would urge all those keeping indigenous species to support this section—we would also suggest to those having roomy natural aviaries, that the Chats, Wrens, Warblers, and the insectivora generally, make interesting occupants, moreover, with many of them close observation in a state of nature is difficult, if not almost impossible—many new facts as to their home-life should be brought to light in the aviary.

MONTH'S ARRIVALS: Your Hon. Editor is more or less of a cripple, and he is seldom able to get round to the dealers' establishments, and this feature (an interesting, practical, and instructive one) has languished of late—this ought not to be—if all will do their part and send in notes of uncommon and rare birds met with during such peregrinations, this would soon be remedied.

Our Illustrations: Four coloured plates have been put in hand for next volume, one of which we hope will appear in January issue. Any increase on this number and the *quantity* of photographic reproductions and half-tone illustrations, must depend on the the response of members to the Illustration Fund *and our growth of membership.*

Our Membership. We are convinced that the members as a whole do not fully realise the necessity for increase—either in its importance to the well-being of the club, or the relief it would give to your officers and Council. There can be no better time than the present, with a new volume commencing next month, for an united and strenuous effort to materially increase our numbers; this being so, we again urge all to participate in the effort to promptly secure at least 100 new members—not only does this mean financial soundness, but a large source to draw upon for copy for the magazine—with an united effort we are sure this could be accomplished.

Club Dinner : A dinner will be arranged for, either at the Crystal Palace or in London, during the period of the L.P.O.S. Show, February 3, 4, 6, and 7, 1911. Further details will be given in our next issue, but it will greatly assist your Hon. Secs. if those likely to attend such a function would send them an intimation and they will also be glad to receive your suggestions.

Common Species : In response to numerous requests (though we have not been lacking in this respect in the past) a detailed article will appear in each issue of *Bird Notes*, giving full directions as to the keeping and breeding of either some common or group of common species. Members are invited to send in accounts of such species as they have kept, and bred successfully.

Notes and Correspondence : The Hon. Editor will also be grateful for notes of any unusual episode, or interesting occurrence taking place in connection with members' birds. He also trusts that a more extended use will be made of the Correspondence section, than has been done in the past—This is open for the discussion of all matters of general interest, dealing with any subject covered by the scope of the Foreign Bird Club.

W. T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
H. WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Sec.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

N. S. O'Reilly, 80, Marine Parade, Brighton.
F. F. Andrews, 2, Attwell Villas, 20 Lower Common South, Putney, London, S.W.
Dr. E. Hopkinson, Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa.

New Members Elected.

C. H. Robinson, The Grainge, Glaisdale, Grosmont, R.S.O.
Mrs. Turner-Turner, Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Hants.
Kenyon V. Painter, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.
Miss Joan Caldwell, The Old Manse, Inverkeithing, N. B.
Mrs. Travis-Travis, Redmore, Grange, Stourbridge.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. W. H. Read, 105, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.
L. G. Pike, King Barrow, Wareham, Dorset.

By the Hon. Editor.

Arthur O'Neil, 25 Eldred Street, Carlisle.
Thos. Holmes, 46, Aglionby Street, Carlisle.

By J. Robson.

Mrs. C. H. Williams, Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter. *By H. Mathias.*
Mrs. G. L. Roberts, 132, Queen's Road, London, W.
Miss Alfreda Smyth, 40 Davenport Road, Catford, S.E. *By H. Willford.*
Arthur Sills, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester *By J. Frostick.*
H. E. Warren,-Williams, L.D.S., Woodcote Lodge, Wallington, Surrey. *By Dr. J. Easton-Scott.*
F. H. Wright, Westholme, Sandal, Wakefield. *By B. Hollins.*
The Hon. Vere D. Boscawen, 2, St. James' Square, London, W. *By Lady E. Douglas Pennant.*

A. Ezra, 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.
Mrs. Thorpe, 31, Castleton Road, West Kensington, London, W.

Winners of Monsieur R. Pauwels and Mr. O. Millsum's specials of one year's subscription and entrance fee to F.B.C.

The Bird Market.

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FOR SALE. Cocks: Black-headed Weaver *(H. melanocephalus)*, 5/6. Half-masked Weaver, 4/6. Pair Indian Silverbills, 4/6. Cock, Grey Singing Finch, 5/-. Hen Pin-tail Whydah, 2/6. Thoroughly acclimatised.—Simpson, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds.

WANTED, Pair adult Zebra finches. Following hens:—Pin-tail Nonpariel, Pekin Robin, Rosey Pastor. One pair Chinese Buntings (*Emberiza rutila*), Hen Chingolo Sparrow (*Zonotrichia pileata*). Must be acclimatised.—Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

FOR SALE, Purple-naped Lory, healthy and in fine condition. V.H.C. Horticultural Hall, price £3 10s. Offer wanted for 2 large wicker cages suitable for doves and one brass parrakeet cage, these are old cages, but clean and serviceable. Space wanted.—Miller, 27 Belgrave Road, S.W.

FOR SALE: All my winning Show Birds (Foreign and British): Brown's Parrakeet, Levalliant's Barbet, pair Painted Finches, Black-shouldered Tanager, Tri-coloured Tanager, Lear's All Blue Macaw (very tame), Green-billed Toucan, Lesser Whitethroat, Robin and Black Redstart (hand reared), Champion Blackbird. List of winnings and prices on application.—Beaty, Strathnarn, Alderley Edge.

FOR SALE. Vols. 1, 2, 3 of *Bird Notes*. Vols. 1 and 2 are *out of print* and Vol. 3 nearly so, occasional copies come into the Hon. Bus. Sec. hands as above, which are all in new condition. Vol. 1 and 2, 21s. each, Vol. 3, 15s.—Apply the Hon. Bus. Sec., Upland View, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight.

THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to the following Shows.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, and those who wish to compete for the London Cup must nominate three birds by writing the word "Cup" on the entry form after each of the three birds chosen.

Edinburgh. Scottish National Show, December 31st and January 2nd. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provinicial Silver Cup for competition. Judge Mr. A. Cochrane. Schedules from Mr. A. W. Watson, 58 Colinton Road, Edinburgh.

L. and P.O.S. National Show, Crystal Palace, February 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th. Classification for ten classes for Foreign Birds. Two Silver Medals and London Silver Cup for competition. Judges, Messrs. Camps and Russell Humphrys. Schedules from Mr. J. W. Ramsden, 11 Josephine Avenue, Brixton, London, S.W.

I shall be glad to hear from any members who wish to give a Special Prize at the Palace Show.

The following results are to hand regarding winners of the Club Medals.

NORWICH. No catalogue received.
ROCHDALE. No catalogue received.
MANCHESTER. Silver Medal Mr. W. H. Pickles.
CLAPHAM. Bronze Medal Mr. C. T. Maxwell.
CHELTENHAM. Bronze Medal Mr. W. H. Pickles.
NOTTINGHAM. Silver Medal Mr. S. Beaty.
PRESTON. No catalogue received.
L.C.B.A. Three Silver Medals, Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, Messrs. C. T. Maxwell and S. M. Townsend.
BIRMINGHAM. No catalogue received.

S. M. TOWNSEND, Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W.

PUBLISHED ABOUT THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO NON-MEMBERS, 15s. 0d.

BIRD NOTES

THE JOURNAL OF
THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Edited by WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

New Series, Vol. I., No. 1. JANUARY, 1910.

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My Aviaries (*with plates*) ... ... J. Smith

An Interesting and Rare Collection of Birds ... W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

Preserving Gentles for Winter Use ... ... R. Suggitt

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The Month's Arrivals. Post Mortem Reports.

ASHBOURNE:
Printed and Published by J. H. HENSTOCK, Market Place.

MEMORANDA FOR MEMBERS.

Annual subscription to Members 10s., due on the 1st of January in each year.

A New Volume commences every January.

All Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, H. WILLFORD, Upland View, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight.

All dead birds for *post mortem* examinations should be sent to H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, London, W.

All MSS. for publication in "Bird Notes," and Books for Review, proposals for new members and advertisements for "The Bird Market" should be sent to the Hon. Editor, W. T. PAGE, 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

All enquiries as to the treatment of Birds should be sent to the following gentlemen:—Parrots and Parrakeets, H.T.T.CAMPS, F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely. Insectivorous and Frugivorous Birds, RUSSEL HUMPHRYS, Southboro', Bickley, Kent. Small Seed-eating Birds, H. R. FILMER, 52, Ship Street, Brighton.

⁂ *All letters referring to the above or identification of birds must contain a penny stamp for reply.*

All applications for Show Medals and enquiries re Shows, should be sent to Mr. S. M. TOWNSEND, 3, Swift Street, Fulham, London, S.W.

All other correspondence, changes of address, non-delivery of Magazine, etc., should be sent to the Hon. Business Secretary, H. WILLFORD, Upland View, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight.

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BIRD NOTES

THE JOURNAL OF
THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Edited by WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

New Series, Vol. I., No. 2. FEBRUARY, 1910.

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(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3) *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B. Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to
- (*a*) date of death,
- (*b*) length of illness,
- (*c*) symptoms of illness,
- (*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
- (*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

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Leaflet No. 229.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

The Breeding and Rearing of Turkeys.

Until comparatively recent years English turkey-raising for market was chiefly conducted in the eastern counties, the greater proportion being marketed from Norfolk and Cambridge. Latterly, however, breeding has become more extended, and outside competition has considerably increased. On the other hand, the demand has also increased, and there has been a noteworthy lengthening of the season. Turkeys may now be said to be in season from November to April, and turkey poults from about July to October. The special demand for large birds is chiefly limited to the periods immediately before and after Christmas, when the value is dominated by weight, and the price per lb. rises with increasing heaviness; but birds of medium weight meet the requirements of the majority of consumers at all times, and hens of from 10 lb. to 14 lb. are largely in demand.

There is no class of producer so favourably placed for the breeding and rearing of turkeys as the farmer; indeed, it is scarcely possible for others to undertake their production successfully, as turkeys require an ample range and home-grown food, and without these the cost of keeping them becomes excessive on account of the length of time between hatching and marketing.

Suitable Situations.

Although turkeys may be raised on heavy land the operation is difficult, particularly in a wet season, and as a rule they do better on light soils, except in very dry weather, when there may be some deficiency in the green food. The best results are obtained upon a rich soil, which is not absolutely heavy in character. Upon some farms a choice is possible, in which case the pasture must be selected for rearing according to the prevailing conditions of the season, preference being given to a dry and sheltered position, facing south and protected from cold winds.

Young turkeys will not thrive in cold bleak positions, and every advantage must be taken of banks, or hedges, which will serve as wind breaks. If these are not available, wattle

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and faggot screens may be temporarily erected to the windward of the coops. Although this involves some trouble, it enables the rearing to be conducted under healthier conditions than if sheds or buildings are used. A reasonable open air method of rearing is essential to health and soundness of constitution.

Varieties.

The American Bronze turkey most nearly resembles its wild progenitor, and good strains attain an average weight of about 30 lb. in the cock birds and 16 lb. in the hens. In appearance this breed is very handsome, the neck, breast and back being black, shaded with a glistening bronze. The under parts are less richly coloured. The wings are black, barred with white or grey and edged with white, the wing bow having a greenish or brownish lustre. The tail is black with brown pencilling, and the coverts grey, shading into black and ending in a brown band. The face, ear lobes and wattles are a rich red, and the legs long and dark in colour.

The old English variety of the eastern counties was the Norfolk Black, but many now prefer the Cambridge Bronze, which is a cross. The plumage of the former is black, with some white spots, and that of the latter a bronze grey, although there is a considerable variation in different strains.

The White turkey is now much more commonly seen than was the case a few years ago, breeders having to some extent overcome the popular prejudice against white plumage, believed to imply delicacy of constitution. White turkeys are relatively small in size. A very useful cross may, however, be made by running a bronze male of medium size with white hens. The young birds are curiously speckled in appearance, but have been found hardy, and comparatively easy to rear, attaining a useful marketable size where exceptional weight is not required.

Housing.

The natural instinct of adult turkeys is to roost in trees, but this is not always permissible in a country in which foxes are more or less plentiful. Delicacy and disease, however, are the direct result of badly ventilated or overheated sleeping quarters, and a special form of house is necessary for the proper accommodation of turkeys. Although some special features are essential the construction of a suitable house is really very simple. In common with all forms of fowl houses the floor should be dry and the building rainproof and free from draughts. The roof should, if possible, be thatched. The arrangement of the perches is important; they should be broad, but not too broad for the birds to grip, and must run from end to end of the building.

Turkeys always prefer to remain on their perches until let out in the morning, when it is their habit to fly straight out and alight on the ground at some distance in front of the house. For this reason and to prevent the birds damaging themselves, the whole of the front of the house must be made to open with folding doors or gates consisting of strong frames, hung on hinges and covered with wire netting. It is only from stock housed in a healthy open-air manner that a healthy progeny can be expected. An excellent house can be made of a thatched shed with walls of wattled furze.

The Breeding Stock.

Many failures have been primarily due to in-breeding, and the use of immature stock wanting in stamina. The use of well-bred and well-grown cocks for mating is of the first importance, and close-breeding should be avoided. Well-grown birds for breeding are not necessarily of great size. An approximation to 20 lb. in the males and 15 lb. in the females would be suitable weights for ordinary breeding purposes, other considerations including width of shoulders, contour of breast, and a medium length of leg. The stock birds should preferably be from two to three years old, and from six to eight hens may be run with a vigorous cock, although a more usual proportion is four or five hens. One service is usually sufficient for the fertilization of a batch of eggs, but permanent mating is preferable.

During March the hens require watching or they will choose some out of the way spot in which to nest. It is advisable to place boxes or barrels on their sides in sheltered positions, in which the birds may lay. April is the best hatching month, and it is generally inadvisable to continue hatching beyond June, but although late birds have insufficient time to come to full maturity, they may be disposed of as poults. Turkey hens are usually good mothers, but their eggs may also be hatched under ordinary hens. Artificial methods of hatching and rearing are not recommended, though incubators are frequently used at the time of hatching. A turkey hen will cover from fifteen to sixteen eggs, and a large barn-door hen from eight to ten. The period of incubation is twenty-eight days. The nests should be upon an earth bottom, and the general management should be similar to that in the case of ordinary hen's eggs.

Feeding Stock Birds.

The correct feeding of the stock birds has an important bearing upon the result. If the food be too fattening the male will fail to fertilize the eggs and the hens will be liable to become egg-bound owing to broken shell-less eggs in the oviduct. The dietary must necessarily vary according to the weather and conditions, but may include ground oats, barley meal in moderation, biscuit meal, middlings and greaves, with grain at night. Some breeders prefer a whole grain diet for both morning and evening feeding, using wheat, barley and oats (a greater proportion of the latter), together with cabbage and such roots as swedes, when the pasture is poor, but considerable variation is possible and necessary, according to the character and condition of the range. The importance of a generous supply of grit and calcareous material should be emphasized.

Rearing.

The principle of the roost house should, as far as possible, be applied to the coops, the doors of which should be wire netted and covered with sacking in severe weather if necessary. The birds should be cooped with their natural or foster mothers upon short turf in a dry sheltered position with a sunny aspect; a rich medium soil is the most suitable for them. The coops must be moved a short distance daily to a fresh patch, and the hens allowed out with the young birds when possible.

A suitable food for turkey chicks consists of steamed rice and biscuit meal, dried with fine sharps; as an alternative some rearers start their birds with curds and fine oatmeal. They may, however, be reared from the time of hatching upon Sussex ground oats in the same manner as chickens are in the south-east, and with equal success. With any soft food an admixture of finely chopped dandelion leaves is especially beneficial—the whole being sprinkled with fine sharp grit. The feeding should be commenced early and continued until late in the day; not much food is required at one time, but it is necessary to give it at frequent intervals, commencing with six meals daily.

At about the third week the diet may be changed to include most of the foodstuffs given to ordinary chickens. Boiled wheat is also a useful food during the early days, although it is too expensive a diet for any but the grower to adopt to any extent. Later on the new corn is helpful, the birds being subsequently run upon the stubbles. Turkey chicks must at all times be comfortably cooped or housed at night, and it is important to keep them dry during their early days. Unless plenty of natural food is available a proportion of meat should be included in the ration. During the summer months woodlands and spinneys are of much value for turkeys, for they not only provide much natural food but are cool and sheltered. Care must be exercised, however. where foxes abound.

Fattening.

The selection and separation for stock purposes should be made in the autumn, the reserves for that purpose being birds of good frame and stout legs rather than merely heavy specimens. Those carrying much flesh are generally possessed of small bones, and are more suitable for fattening than for stock; they should not, however, be shut up until some time in November, but allowed the run of the fields, being at the same time well fed on ground oats. The birds which respond most satisfactorily to the fattening process proper are those which have been kept in good condition from their earliest days.

About a month before they will be required for market they should be confined in a large open-fronted shed, situated in a quiet position. The best fattening food is Sussex ground oats* and milk, with fat added every other day, but barley meal and maize meal are often added in equal proportions. Some authorities consider that soured skim-milk, or butter-milk, is essential if good quality is to be attained. The best birds are produced where skim-milk is available. Swedes or potatoes may also be boiled and mixed with the meal. All the food should be mixed soft, but not sticky, and be placed in a trough which must be kept well scoured. Plenty of grit should be supplied. If desirable, cramming may be resorted to during the latter portion of the period, but when the birds are in good condition at the commencement of trough feeding, cramming is in most cases unnecessary.

Marketing.

Turkeys should be killed by dislocation of the neck after starving for 24 hours, and be plucked warm, drawing the feathers in their own direction, plucking the bird clean except for the neck feathers, which it is usual to leave on.

The method of tying and shaping is subject to local modifications and the requirements of the markets.

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* This poultry food is made by grinding oats into a fine meal. The special finely-ground product required is obtained by mixing a small proportion of barley with hard flinty oats. Russian and other foreign oats are usually employed in preference to the softer home-grown grain.

Turkeys should be sent to market in baskets or strong crates, laid breast downwards on clean straw and packed tightly to prevent them moving while in transit. Clean butter paper may with advantage be placed above and below each layer of birds to prevent the straw marking and rubbing them. The number and actual weight of the contents should be marked on the outside of each package, as well as the name of the sender, and a postcard should be sent to the buyer or salesman stating by what route and train the crate is being sent.

At the London Markets turkeys fetch high prices according to size, appearance and straightness of breast bone, at and for a very short time after Christmas. As to days of the weeks at Smithfield (Central Market), Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are best; at Leadenhall, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The following information regarding the periods of demand and weights required at various other markets was collected by the Board's Market Reporters some two years ago :—

Market.	Weights in most demand.	Season.	If fatted.	Average prices. (1907.)
	lb.			per lb.
Liverpool ...	12-16	Christmas	Ordinarily fed	9*d.*-10*d.* wholesale, 11*d.*-1*s.* retail.
Manchester ...	Hens, 6-8 Cocks, 10-16.	Christmas	No	7*d.*-10*d.* wholesale, 9*d.*-1*s.* retail.
Birmingham ...	12-15 at Christmas.	Christmas, English. Oct.-Feb., foreign.	Ordinarily fed	8*d.* - 10*d.*, or more at Christmas.
Glasgow ...	12-15	Oct.-May	No	1*s.*-1*s.* 2*d.*
Edinburgh ...	12-15	Oct.-May	No	1*s.*-1*s.* 2*d.*
Brighton ...	10-16	Oct.-Feb.	Yes	9*d.*-1*s.*
Chichester ...	Hens, 10-12 Cocks, 16-18.	Christmas · Easter.	Fatted, but not crammed.	Hens, 10*d.*; Cocks, 1*s.*
Portsmouth ...	7-18	Oct.-March	Yes	8*d.*-1*s.* 3*d.*
Dorchester ...	18-22	Christmas	Yes	6*s.*-18*s.* (each).
Plymouth ...	16-20	Christmas	Well fed, not crammed.	10*d.*
Bristol ...	Hens, 8-12 Cocks, 14-20.	Nov. Feb.	Well fatted	Hens, 8*d*-9*d.*; Cocks, 9½*d.*-10*d.* wholesale.
Newport, Mon.	12-13	Oct.-March	Unfatted generally.	1*s.*-1*s.* 2*d.*
Hereford ...	12-14	Christmas	Yes	11*d.*-1*s.* 2*d.*
Wolverhampton	12-14 (dressed).	Dec.	No	12*s.*-14*s.* (each, dressed).
Shrewsbury ...	12-15	Nov.-March.	Yes	Hens, 8*d.*; Cocks, 9*d.*-10*d.*
Chester ...	10-14	Dec.-Feb.	Natural feeding.	1*s.*

Market.	Weights in most demand.	Season.	If fatted.	Average prices. (1907.)
	lb.			per lb.
Carlisle ...	16	Christmas	Not artificially	1*s*.
Aberdeen ...	10–16	Dec.–Jan.	Yes	8*d*.–1*s*.
Dundee ...	14	Christmas	Yes	8*d*.–10*d*. at Christmas, 1*s*. (wholesale) at other times.
Newcastle ...	12–15	Nov.–Feb., esp. Christmas.	Yes	10*d*.–1*s*.
Darlington ...	12–16	Christmas–end Jan.	Ordinarily fatted.	10*d*.–1*s*.
York	15–20	Christmas	Not artificially	1*s*.–1*s*. 3*d*.
Leeds and Bradford.	15–20	Christmas and winter months.	Yes	10*d*.–1*s*.
Wakefield ...	14–20	Christmas	Ordinarily	1*s*.–1*s*. 2*d*.
Hull	Hens, 10 Cocks, 20.	Christmas	No	10*d*.–1*s*.
Lincoln ...	9–20	Sept.–Jan.	Yes	1*s*.–1*s*. 2*d*.
Derby	16–20	Christmas	No	9*d*.–1*s*.
Leicester ...	12–14	Christmas	Yes	1*s*.–1*s*. 2*d*.
Peterborough	12–14	Christmas	Ordinarily	1*s*.
Norwich ...	20–25	Christmas	By ordinary methods.	1*s*.–1*s*. 4*d*.
Ipswich ...	10–12	Christmas	Yes.	1*s*.–1*s*. 2*d*.

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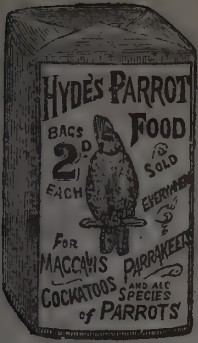
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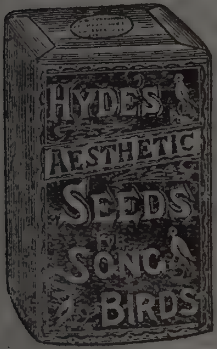
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MAY, 1910.

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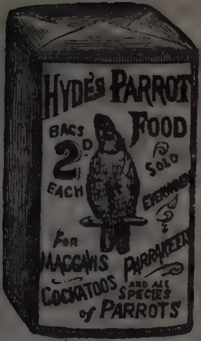
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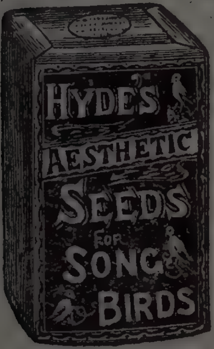
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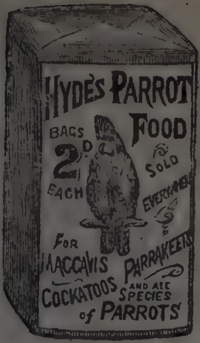
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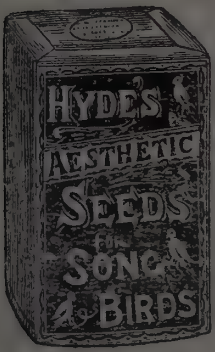
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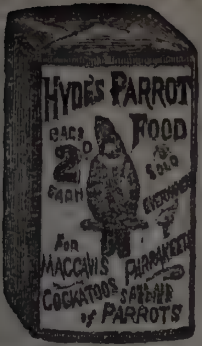
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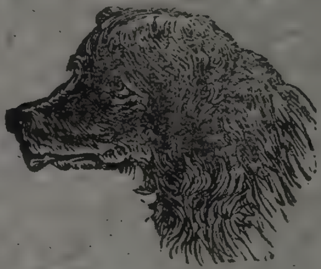

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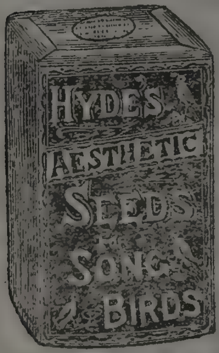
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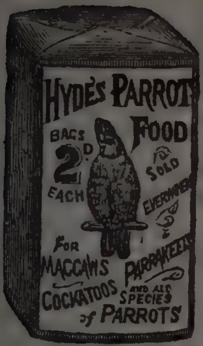
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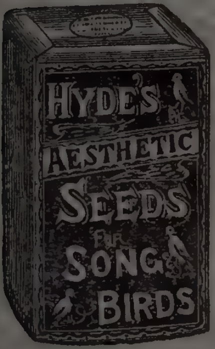
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OCTOBER, 1910.

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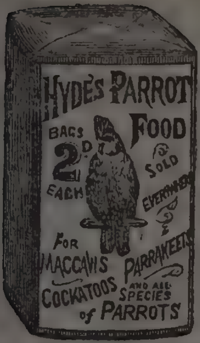
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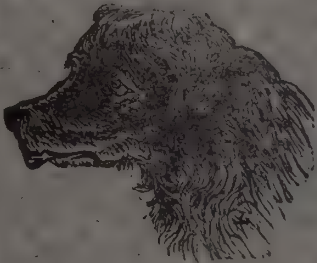

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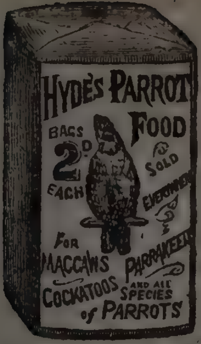
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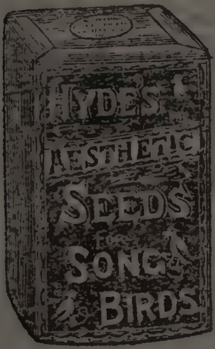
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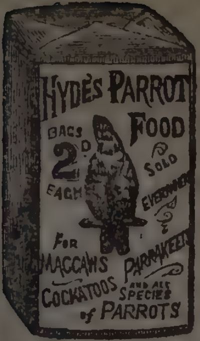
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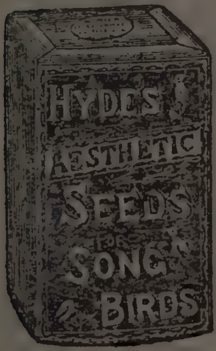
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